



Portfolio £28,000 to be won

Today's Times Portfolio prize total is £28,000. There is £20,000 to be won in the weekly competition and £8,000 in the daily, four times the usual amount, because no-one has won for the past three days. Portfolio list, page 24; weekly check list, information service, back page.

UDM wins official union status

The Union of Democratic Mineworkers won official recognition yesterday from the Certification Officer for Trades Unions, and immediately announced a recruitment drive in other coalfields to win members from the National Union of Mineworkers. Page 2

Austin jobs

Austin Rover is to close toolmaking plants at Castle Bromwich and Dunstable with the loss of 700 jobs, and 50 jobs are being shed at Llanelli. Page 2

Tyne vote clash

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Tory party chairman, said the Alliance's cynical intervention in politics had helped Labour to win the Tyne Bridge by-election. Page 2

Strike recedes

The threat faded of an all-out strike by council workers at Brent, north London, in defence of colleagues dismissed over the Jasmine Beckford case. Page 2

Curb on job bias

Measures to stop "jobs for the boys" practices operated by some left-wing councils have been proposed by the Secretary of State for the Environment. Page 2

Minister sacked

The Soviet oil minister, Mr Talgat Khuramsin, has been dismissed for abusing his position and expelled from the Communist Party. Page 2

Murder hunt

Murder squad detectives are hunting for clues to the death of a boy whose body was recovered yesterday from a shallow grave at Waltham Abbey, Essex.

A link with the murder of Jason Swift, aged 14, whose body was found in a shallow grave last weekend has not been discounted. Report and photograph, page 2

Rock harmony

Madrid talks between the British and Spanish foreign ministers on Gibraltar's sovereignty ended in agreement to continue the study through diplomatic channels. Page 6

Bid referred

The £1.8 billion takeover bid for Allied-Lyons by the Australian company, Elders IXL, has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Kenneth Fleet, page 25

Exchange curbs

South Africa announced new foreign exchange controls, taking effect from Monday, to ease pressure on the rand. Unrest doubts, page 5

Abuse remedy

Rising child abuse and neglect could be tackled by an international team of advisers, the World Health Organization recommends. Page 6

Nobel surprise

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee did not know that the Soviet co-winner of this year's prize had signed a letter denouncing the dissident Andrei Sakharov. Page 5

Art returned

Austria is on the brink of returning to their owners some 8,000 works of art confiscated by the Nazis. Page 6

Israel land fraud

Hundreds of Israelis were tricked into investing in property in non-existent West Bank settlements, a police inquiry revealed. Page 5

Wales coach

Tony Gray, formerly with London Welsh, has taken over as coach of the Welsh rugby team from John Bevan, who resigned last month because of ill-health. Page 36

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Britain leads way in signing Star Wars deal

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain yesterday became the first among America's allies to sign an agreement which will enable British companies and research institutes to participate in President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, popularly known as Star Wars.

The move was immediately denounced by the Soviet Union as "contradicting" the spirit of the recent US-Soviet summit in Geneva.

Shortly after signing the memorandum of understanding, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, disclosed that the Soviet Union now had 27 of its new SS-X-25 mobile missiles operational and that more were being deployed. This was a clear violation of the Salt 2 agreement.

Whitehall hopes the SDI deal - the terms of which are being kept secret - will provide a big boost for British high-tech companies by providing a framework for them to take part in 18 areas of research in what promises to be the biggest and richest defence programme yet.

The agreement was denounced by opposition leaders for being, in the words of Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, "deluded, destabilising and dangerous".

British involvement would start a brain-drain as it is British technologists that the US wants, not the British technology.

And in a reference to US influence on Britain's decision to leave Unesco, he added: "Every day... Mrs Thatcher makes herself less like the Prime Minister of Britain and more like the governor of the 51st state of the Union."

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, criticising the secrecy of the agreement, wondered what implications would be on the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

For the Americans the deal represents an important display of political support for the controversial Star Wars programme: from a major ally which, it is hoped, will lead to similar agreements being signed with other countries.

Mr Weinberger said after the signing ceremony that at least three other countries were thinking of joining SDI research. He was referring to West Germany, Italy and Japan.

The agreement was signed at a hastily-arranged noon ceremony at the Ministry of Defence between Mr Weinberger and Mr Heseltine.

Mr Heseltine said the SDI participation office was being set up in the Ministry of Defence to act as a focal point for British participation and to liaise with the SDI office in Washington.

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Mr Heseltine (left) and Mr Weinberger exchanging agreements at yesterday's ceremony.

Change of ownership likely at Telegraph

By Kenneth Fleet

Measures to lower the critical financial temperature and restore vigour at the Daily Telegraph are imminent.

They include a large injection of money which the company desperately needs to continue its costly move to new printing plant in London (West Ferry Road) and Manchester (Trafford Park), and senior management and editorial changes.

Although this is not yet confirmed, a major change in ownership of the Daily Telegraph is likely. This may mean that the Berry family, proprietors since 1928, will no longer be the dominant shareholders.

The balance in shareholdings is expected to tilt in favour of Mr Conrad Black, aged 40, a Canadian businessman with a Chongchi Khan reputation, who in June acquired 14 per cent of the paper.

The Daily Telegraph and, at the same time, an option that would prevent any other buyer diluting his interest.

A Black-controlled Daily Telegraph would have an important place, either as editor of The Daily Telegraph or even as managing director for Mr Andrew Knight, aged 46, new editor of The Economist.

The editor of The Daily Telegraph is William Deedes, aged 72.

There is a view among The Telegraph's bankers that, even if Mr Black emerges with a controlling minority or even 51 per cent of the shares (the Berry family has 60 per cent, with the remaining 26 per cent divided among insurance companies and other institutions) he would, in time, sell his stake to someone else.

The favourite is Mr John Fairfax, of the Australian newspaper, television, radio and magazine group, which in age, family domination and political attitudes has a rough kinship with The Daily Telegraph and has from time to time actively contemplated becoming involved.

Fairfax, which owns the Sydney Morning Herald, The Sun and The Age, acquired The Spectator in January from Mr Alley Cluff.

The view that The Telegraph would have to change ownership in order to attract the extra loan finance and share capital it needs has been resolutely resisted by Lord Hartwell, aged 74, who is effectively the owner as well as chairman of the company and editor-in-chief of both the Daily Telegraph and the Sunday Telegraph, which he himself founded.

Wider cash service proposed for building societies in Bill

By Lawrence Lever

Wide-ranging extensions to the services that building societies can provide to the public are contained in the Building Societies Bill, which was published and received its formal first reading yesterday.

Described by Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary at the Treasury, as "the most important legislation on building societies for over a century", the Bill adopts most of the proposals in the Government's Green Paper review of building societies published last July.

Scheduled to receive the Royal Assent and become law towards the end of next year, the Bill allows the societies to provide money transmission and foreign exchange services, issue cheque guarantee cards, act as estate agents and insurance brokers, and, to a limited extent, undertake conveyancing.

The public will also be able to buy and sell investments, such as ordinary shares or unit trusts, through a building society.

However, societies will not be able to make the granting of an ordinary home loan conditional upon an aspiring borrower utilizing any of its other services. All services that a society does provide must be individually priced.

Societies with commercial assets of more than £100 million will be able to provide unsecured loans of up to £5,000 to individuals and can acquire and develop residential land. The unsecured loan facility will effectively allow the larger societies to provide current accounts with overdraft facilities.

The Bill also introduces a new statutory scheme to protect investors in building societies which become insolvent and establishes the Building Societies Commission. This will largely replace the supervisory and regulatory powers of the Registrar of Friendly Societies insofar as they relate to building societies.

While the Law Society declared itself delighted with the news, the institutions expressed their disappointment. Mr David Tenn, of the Consumers' Association, said: "We think the Government has reneged on its promise."

The decision was given in a parliamentary written answer by Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, Solicitor-General.

Many comments expressed regret at the loss Unesco will suffer. Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, said it would be deprived of a "substantial practical, intellectual and financial contribution."

But Britain was also criticised for "political" decision: some countries noted that many reforms Britain sought had already been approved. Colleagues hurt, page 6

Hanson in £1.9bn bid for Imperial

By Our City Staff

A bitter takeover fight broke out last night when Hanson Trust launched a £1.9 billion bid for Imperial Group, the John Player tobacco Co. and Courage brewing combine which last week agreed £1.32 billion merger terms with United Biscuits.

Imperial immediately rejected the offer as "unwelcome and totally inadequate" and said that it would be pursuing its agreed deal with United Biscuits, whose brand names include McVitie's, KP Snacks and Terry's All Gold chocolates.

Hanson Trust, which takes in Ever Ready batteries, London Brick and the Alders department stores, is already fighting a fierce takeover battle in New York where it is involved in acrimonious litigation over a \$930 million offer for SCM Corporation.

Last night's bid is the fifth worth more than £1 billion in the City in the last month. The others are a £1.8 billion bid by Elders IXL of Australia for Allied Lyons, the brewer; a £1.9 billion bid by Argill for Distillers, the Scotch whisky group; a £1.2 billion offer by GEC for its rival electronics company, Plessey; and the £1.32 billion bid by Imperial for United Biscuits.

Lord Hanson, Hanson Trust's chairman, described his offer as "far better for Imperial shareholders than the perceived value of the Imperial deal with United."

He said that a letter sent to his counterpart at Imperial, Mr Geoffrey Kent, proposing that the two men meet to discuss the position, had brought the curt reply that there was "no merit" in such a meeting.

Hanson Trust had made several efforts over the last two years to interest the Imperial board in a merger, but had been told that Imperial preferred "to go it alone."

Mr Kent said that Imperial could not be described as the sort of poorly managed, underperforming company that Hanson Trust has a reputation for bidding for.

"Our profits have grown by 30 per cent compound a year since I became chairman four years ago. There is no way we can be described as one of the sleeping giants of British industry," he said.

Hanson refused to comment on speculation that if it is successful, it plans to break up Imperial and sell off some of its businesses.

Mr Kent said the two groups were "totally incompatible and there is no merit or logic in the two groups being merged. I do not know what Hanson's game is at all."

Lord Hanson, aged 63, has over the last 20 years built up one of Britain's largest industrial conglomerates in terms of stock market value through a series of hectic and spectacular takeovers. Details, page 25

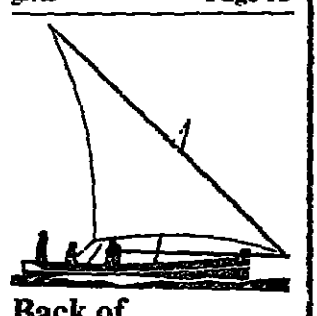
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Paul McCartney talks about Lennon, life and music, from emerging as a Beatle to taking Wings. Page 11

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How great fishing brings great poetry. Page 8

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MONDAY



Keep taking the pills
A long, cold look at Britain's lager boom

The Importance of being Grahams

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Astles waits in Kampala with armed police guard

From Paul Valley

Mr Bob Astles, the British-born former aide of the Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, is still under guard by armed police and prison warders four days after being released from Kampala's top security prison.

Mr Astles, who was detained in Luzira Prison for six years after being extradited from Kenya after the fall of the Amin regime, was freed on Tuesday after renouncing his Ugandan citizenship. But he was taken to the secure compound of the senior prison officers' mess at the other side of the Ugandan capital where he is protected by guards who have orders to

admit no one except his Ugandan wife, Mary Senkankanda, and Kampala's Commissioner of Prisons.

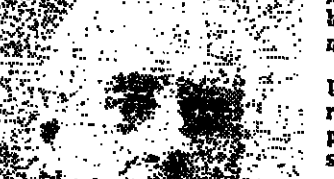
There, in a first floor room he awaits the outcome of his re-application for British citizenship.

The building is patrolled by police in military fatigues and armed with automatic rifles. There are guards inside the building at the bottom of the staircase, and more from the Ugandan prison service at the gates of the compound, which has spiked high fences.

Yesterday, in a note passed unofficially from the compound to The Times, Mr Astles said that he hoped to be allowed

my friends of Uganda who I have been with since 1949," he noted.

Mr Astles's release, the Ugandan Government hopes, removes an unnecessary complication from the political scene here.



Mr Astles taken to secure compound back into Britain by next week, but said he was constrained not to say more.

The various rebel forces which overthrew the Obote regime in July are now continuing the civil war among themselves. The new ruling military council is currently faced with the deterioration of peace negotiations and the escalation of fighting between itself and the largest rebel group, the National Resistance Army (NRA).

In that context, the removal of Mr Astles consolidates the

support for the Government by the troops of the former national Ugandan Army, a third powerful rebel group which consists largely of troops from Amin's Army.

Continued on back page, col 1

'Historic day' hailed as breakaway miners' union gets legal seal

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Miners were yesterday given a choice of unions for the first time in more than 40 years with the official recognition of the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

The granting of the UDM's certificate of independence came after a last-minute hitch caused by an objection, lodged by a National Union of Mineworkers activist in South Derbyshire but subsequently rejected by the government-appointed Certification Officer for Trade Unions.

UDM leaders announced that they would start a recruiting drive in other coalfields to win members from the NUM to add to their claimed current membership of more than 40,000. Mr. Arthur Scargill, NUM president, disputes that figures and says the breakaway union's strength is nearer 25,000.

The National Coal Board reacted quickly to the granting of the certificate of independence by inviting all the unions in the industry for talks to discuss the establishment of new conciliation and consultation machinery, which would include the UDM.

The coal board also announced yesterday that Darfield Main colliery near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, which had been threatened with closure, had now been reprieved on the basis of a rescue plan put forward by the pit managers' union, BACM.

Under the scheme the workforce will be cut from 500 to 395 and the board will invest a further £5 million in the pit, enabling it to produce 415,000 tonnes of coal a year at its "economic" target cost of £39 a tonne.

UDM leaders hailed yesterday's certification as an "historic day" for the coal industry, and Mr Roy Lynk, the general secretary, said: "Arthur Scargill is finished. I repeat Arthur Scargill is finished."

However, Mr Scargill plans to hold a "victory" rally at Darfield Main today to celebrate the successful opposition to its closure.

The new union's leaders were reluctant to disclose their recruitment plans but indicated that they intended to seek new members in every coalfield. During the past five weeks, Mr Lynk and his colleagues have held small meetings in NUM areas, including Yorkshire, to gauge the strength of any dissatisfaction among NUM loyalists.

Mr Lynk said: "The UDM goes forward, gets bigger and gets better from today, and it will become the only union to represent the majority of the present NUM workforce."

He cast doubt on Mr Scargill's claim this week that many miners who had defected to the UDM were returning to the NUM.

The NUM's political fund

ballots held on Wednesday and Thursday had, Mr Lynk said, led to a small number returning to the NUM to be able to cast a vote, but he claimed that the UDM's membership in Nottinghamshire alone was 27,500.

The new organization has been formed by a merger of the NUM's Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire areas and the Durham-based Colliery Trades and Allied Workers Association.

Certification of the new union, a necessary indication of the body's independence under trade union and employment protection legislation, has been carried through quickly.

Details of the last-minute challenge were not disclosed by the Certification Officer last night, although it is understood to have been made by Mr Kevin Richards, former president of the NUM's South Derbyshire area.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the coal board yesterday accepted the NUM's written guarantee that future pay rises would be linked to incentive payments and improved productivity.

However, it appeared last night that the board was in no hurry to make a formal pay offer to the NUM.

It is understood that some board members are anxious to allow time for the UDM, which has already negotiated increases worth 6-7 per cent, to get "bedded down".

Second boy's body found



Murder squad detectives with dog teams hunting for clues yesterday after the body of a boy aged between seven and nine was recovered from a shallow grave in a ploughed field at Waltham Abbey, Essex.

Police searching for the boy's killer have not ruled out a link with the murder of Jason Swift, aged 14, whose body was found under leaves in a field seven miles away at Chipping Ongar last weekend (Michael Horsnell writes).

The body of the younger boy, who had dark hair and had been buried naked, is believed to have been lying there for not less than a month and not more than six months. Evidence from a post-mortem examination, which was being carried out last night,

indicated that he had probably not been sexually assaulted.

More than 50 officers combed fields and woodland in the search for clues after the grim discovery by a farmer, Mr Alexander Gray, aged 60, who noticed a depression at the edge of a field beside a tree-lined drainage ditch. After prodding the ground, which is believed to have been disturbed by foxes, he uncovered the child's feet.

Metropolitan Police, led by Det Supt Bill Peters, are liaising with officers from Essex. Last night, police found a pair of white ankle socks near the 8 inch deep grave and were looking for other clothing. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Baker seeks curbs on 'jobs for boys' scandal' in councils

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Measures to clamp down on what ministers have termed a "job for the boys" scandal in local government operated by left wing councils were proposed yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Baker invited the Widdicombe inquiry into the conduct of local authority business to consider whether legislation was needed to constrain the political involvement of officers, including a ban on elected office for any local government officer above a defined rank, and to prevent political patronage in the appointment or promotion of officers.

He also suggested the establishment of a local government staff commission, to take over from councils the selection and initial posting of senior officers to act as a safeguard of "propriety and equity".

In a submission to the enquiry from his department, the Scottish Office and Welsh Office, Mr Baker said there were wide spread cases of councillors serving as employees of neighbouring authorities.

The law debars council employees from elected office in their own authorities.

Of the Glasgow city council elected in the municipal elections last May, almost a quarter of the members were employees of Strathclyde regional council, he said.

There had been allegations that councillors in one authority had used their influence in personnel matters to secure "soft" jobs for their political colleagues.

Mr Baker's proposals brought an angry reaction from some local authorities last night. The Local Government Information Unit, which represents 60

councils, called it an outrageous package.

Citing cases involving the GLC abolition and rate capping, where officers had been required by their members to carry out instructions in breach of the law, Mr Baker proposed that the inquiry consider whether the responsibilities of chief officers to ensure the proper management of their authorities should be enshrined in law.

Mr Tony Benn and Mr Eric Heffer, the two leading hard-left members of Labour's national executive, launched a twin attack on Mr Neil Kinnock last night over the investigation into the Militant-controlled Liverpool district council which starts this weekend (Our Lobby Reporter writes).

Speaking to party members in Liverpool, Mr Heffer said that the local party had been suspended and an investigation set up, not because it had defied the national executive of party conference, but because it had kept to party policy "whilst others have not".

Mr Benn, who was sharing the same platform with Mr Heffer, said Liverpool's Labour councillors should be getting the full support of the party.

Mr Derek Hannon, the Militant deputy leader of Liverpool city council, has been banned from speaking at a public meeting due to have been held in a Midlands office of the right-wing Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which now intends to stop the hard-left organization from using any of its premises.

The meeting was organized by members of the Liverpool Defence Committee within the Coventry South East Labour Party, of which the MP, Mr David Nellist, is a Militant supporter.

Austin shed 750 tool room jobs

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Austin Rover is closing two plants and making 750 tool room workers redundant because the pace of its new model programme is slowing.

A spokesman said last night that in the past five years the number of employees was halved, from 82,000 to 41,000, while the tool room strength was cut by 10 per cent. "Now that the pressure for new models is easing we are taking action to bring that side of the business into line."

Plants at Castle Bromwich, near Birmingham, employing 580, and at Dunstable, Bedfordshire, with 120 employees, will be closed by March. 50 jobs will be lost at the Llanelli, Dyfed, body pressing factory, which has a workforce of 1,250.

Mr John Allen, Birmingham district secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which represents most of those affected said that the company was letting down one of the most loyal and hard working sections.

"They have co-operated in every way possible to ensure that the new models on which the company's future depends were produced on time, and this is their reward."

Kidnap charge

Two men were charged in co Donegal last night with falsely imprisoning Mr Homer Scott, the Irish racehorse trainer. Three other men are being questioned.

Tebbit says Alliance helps Labour to win

By Our Political Reporter

The Labour and Alliance parties each took comfort yesterday from the result of the Tyne Bridge by-election, won by Labour, on a slightly increased share of the vote with the Alliance pushing the Tories into a bad third place.

But Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative party chairman, and Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, argued bitterly over the role played by the Alliance in helping Mr David Clelland, leader of Gateshead council, to his 6,575 majority.

Mr Tebbit, commenting on a result that saw the Tory share of the vote fall by 14 per cent, declared that the danger of the tactical vote had again been demonstrated. He said Labour had been helped home by the cynical intervention of the so-called Alliance.

He added: "The message is clear - the only change they can bring about is to impose a hard-left Labour government on Britain, one from which we might never recover."

Mr Steel accused Mr Tebbit of arrogance. The sooner the Tories realized that elections did not belong to them and that

TYNE BRIDGE

Clelland, A (Lab)	13,517
Kenyon, R (SDP/All)	8,942
Lait, Mrs J (C)	2,568
Cornell, J (Peace)	250
Smith, P (New Nat)	32
Weiss, G.	38

Majority 6,575

	1985	1983	Change
Lab	57.8	58.5	+1.3
All	29.7	18.3	+11.4
Con	11.0	25.2	-14.2

(Captain Rainbow Universal Party, Acolth Parliament)

General election, 1983: H (Lab) 21,127; Clelland, R (C) 9,434; Dawson, A (L/All) 6,532; Labour majority: 11,693.

There were other voices in Britain than Mrs Margaret Thatcher's, the better for the health of democracy.

Labour chiefs were happy to have achieved an increased share of the vote. Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, said it was a good result, and added that the destiny of the Alliance was to be a refuge camp for voters.

Leading article, page 9

St Hugh's to admit men

St Hugh's College, Oxford, one of three remaining all-female colleges at the university, is to abandon a century of tradition and admit men.

The change will require an amendment to the college's royal charter and St Hugh's is not, therefore, likely to take male undergraduates until 1988 at the earliest.

Reform has been forced on the college by the need to attract better quality students. This year St Hugh's came 26 out of 28 in the Norrington league table of degree results. Last year it was bottom.

The remaining women-only colleges at Oxford, once St Hugh's has gone to educational, will be St Hilda's and Somerville.

Social Bill changes postponed

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government has postponed the key changes in its social security reform to April 1988, a year later than intended.

The White Paper is expected in the week beginning December 16, but ministers will be unable to get the Bill into Parliament until after Christmas and fear it may not become law before autumn 1986. Pushing through the complex changes by the original target date would be a dangerously tight exercise.

Civil Servants in DHSS benefit offices are threatening non-cooperation with some changes, and local authorities have said they could not cope.

In the run up to a general election, ministers do not want repeat of the chaos over the reform of housing benefit in 1982 and 1983.

Sotheby's refuse to halt sale of vases

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Apulian vases and terracotta included in Sotheby's sale of antiquities next Monday probably come from a fourth century BC tomb near Arpi, which was recently looted by illicit diggers, according to Professor Felice Lo Porto, the region's superintendent of antiquities. He was in London yesterday to view the sale and to discuss the issue with Sotheby's.

"There is a police investigation of this grave robbery in progress, and I asked Sotheby's to delay the sale until we see if any evidence is forthcoming," he said. It was a personal request, rather than an official demand from the Italian Government, and Sotheby's has not agreed to do it.

In a statement issued yesterday Sotheby's said that it had met the representatives of the Italian Government and noted its concern over the increase of Apulian vases on the market. Since there is no evidence that any of the vases in Sotheby's forthcoming sale have come from any official or unofficial site, Sotheby's will proceed with the sale.

Professor Lo Porto has come to London at the request of the Minister of Cultural Affairs after newspaper reports that Mr Brian Cook, of the British Museum, thought it likely that



One of the controversial Apulian vases at Sotheby's sale.

The Apulian vases in Sotheby's sale had left Italy illegally. There had been recent thefts from archaeological museums at Canosa, Minervino and Gravina in southern Italy, he said, and his first objective was to check that the vases were not stolen. That he was now confirmed, but he considers it likely that the pieces were found in the large tomb recently looted near Arpi.

Two plays win joint first prize

By Peter Davenport

The largest competition yet staged to find new plays for the theatre was won yesterday by a teacher from Northern Ireland and a Coronation Street scriptwriter.

Mr Robin Glendinning, aged 47, from Belfast, and Mr Tony Perrin, aged 53, from Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, each received £7,500 as joint first prize winners in the contest organized by the Mobil Company in conjunction with the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester.

The competition, which £23,000 in prize money, was launched last October in London and attracted more than 2,000 entries from 14 countries. The competition was judged by Mr Melvyn Bragg, the writer and broadcaster, Miss Blowright, Alan Bennett and Willie Russell, playwrights, Mr Michael Codron, West End producer, and Mr James Maxwell, actor and director at the Royal Exchange Theatre.

Mr Glendinning won with his entry, *Mumbo Jumbo*, which is set in a Belfast public school and centres on the sexual awakenings of a boarder.

Mr Perrin's winning entry, *War Pictures* is based around a cinema projectionist

Full strike in Jasmine case fades

The threat faded yesterday of an all-out strike by Christmas by Breat Council social workers, in defence of colleagues dismissed over the Jasmine Beckford case.

Nalco, the local government union, has called a meeting of its 3,000 members employed by the council for December 13 when a ballot motion calling for a strike will be discussed.

But only 150 social services staff, out of a total of 2,000, were on strike yesterday in support of Miss Gunn Wahistrom and Mrs Diane Dietmann, her supervisor the council said.

Mr William Thompson, the court liaison officer who was also dismissed, decided yesterday to appeal.

A special panel set up by Breat Health Authority has recommended that Miss Yee Lai Leong, a health visitor who was criticized by the Blom-Cooper report, should not be disciplined, although she has been taken off child abuse cases.

Correction

The London Hospital Medical College expects to be underfunded by £2 million by the end of the decade not by £2 million a year until then as stated in our Special Report on December 3.

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Judge sums up on killing of detective

A Central Criminal Court jury had to decide whether an undercover detective was murdered or whether he was lawfully killed in self-defence. Mr Justice Caulfield, said in summing up the trial of Kenneth Noye and Brian Reader.

The judge said that this was the utterly dominant issue raised by the defence counsel that Mr Noye had acted in self-defence when he stabbed Mr Fordham 10 times.

Mr Noye, aged 37, a builder of Hollywood Cottage, West Kingsdown, Kent, and Mr Reader, aged 45, unemployed, of Winn Road, Grove Park, south east London, both deny murdering Mr Fordham, aged 45.

The detective was on special surveillance duty in the 20-acre grounds of Mr Noye's home at the time, taking part in a Scotland Yard investigation into the £26 million Brink's Mat robbery at Heathrow airport in November 1983.

Mr Noye has told the court that he stabbed the detective when he was attacked in the grounds while investigating why his Rottweiler dogs were barking. He felt he was fighting for his life, and had no idea the man was a police officer.

The judge said anyone was entitled to defend themselves unlawfully attacked. "It is a crime, and you are entitled to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to prevent the attack. Notice the words 'reasonable in the circumstances'."

"If you conclude the force was unreasonable - and the prosecution has to prove it was unreasonable - you will easily, I suggest, come to a verdict of murder against Mr Noye. If self-defence is a matter in this case, the Crown has the burden of disproving self-defence."

Mr Justice Caulfield recalled the jury's visit, at the start of the trial, to the scene of the killing.

"Were those grounds desecrated by the vicious murder of a man on January 26th? Or was the man killed unlawfully because he was an aggressor who had perjured the owner, and his owner - almost paralysed with fear - killed him, and in this terror struck him not once, twice or thrice, but 10 times?"

The trial is adjourned until Monday.

Big brewers get monopoly inquiry warning on tied pubs

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Brewers were warned yesterday that the tied public house system could soon face a fresh inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, said that he was giving careful consideration to the case for referring the brewing industry to the commission under the Fair Trading Act.

"The tied house system makes it difficult for drink producers who do not themselves own pubs to get their product into pubs and through the customers in a fair competition with the products of the major brewers," Sir Gordon told members of the Leicester and County Chamber of Commerce.

He said that customer choice, which is so important in the drinks market where tastes vary so much, was reduced by the tied house system and that price leadership by managed houses had caused prices to rise.

The commission had reported on the tied house system in 1969 and found it to be against the public interest. But the findings were unsatisfactory because no practical recommendations were made. The commission's report put its hopes in

a relaxation of the licensing laws but it did not happen, Sir Gordon said.

Sir Gordon also disclosed that he would have recommendations on how to open up retail distribution of newspapers and periodicals in a review of the subject that the Office of Fair Trading expects to publish shortly.

"I doubt if we will come down in favour of completely free competition in the retail distribution of newspapers," he said, but there would be some thoughts on how to open it up "to some degree".

"Wholesalers restrict supplies on the basis that to provide unlimited distribution of newspapers and periodicals to all retailers 'who ask for supplies would simply divert sales away from existing outlets rather than increase circulation and would therefore raise costs and threaten house delivery service,'" Sir Gordon said.

"Because I am generally pro-competition and innovation, I don't like to see new styles of retailing newspapers unnecessarily prevented, such as the selling of newspapers at convenience stores and petrol stations."

Arts Council's code for disabled criticized

The Arts Council has been criticized for not going far enough in its efforts to encourage companies to make themselves more accessible to the disabled.

Yesterday, the council published a code of practice which urges theatres, galleries and concert halls to consider the needs of the disabled in their programming, arrangements for access, publicity and ticket prices.

"Some people as a result of their disability are forced to occupy the most expensive seats," the code says. It urges that concessions ought to be considered in such cases.

The code is being sent to all organizations subsidized by the Arts Council, and is available to other companies at a cost of £5.

While the code is welcomed as a first step, there are fears that without teeth it will be ineffective. Sir Kenneth Robinson, chairman of the Carnegie Council on arts and the disabled, said at the launch: "It is not enough merely to set out guidelines because people are apt to ignore them."

The Carnegie Council was set up to promote recommendations by Sir Richard Attenborough in his report *Arts and the Disabled* published earlier this year. It calls for a time-limit to be set for the completion of structural alterations needed to give the disabled access to many arts venues.

The report says also that Arts Council funding should be made conditional on the provision of basic information on facilities for the disabled.



Grand Duke John of Luxembourg, Colonel of the Irish Guards, being shown by Sergeant Mathew Ryan how to drive an armoured personnel carrier during a visit yesterday to the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards at Münster, West Germany.

Paras case girl 'was sex maniac'

Men and sex were the main interests of a girl soldier who was charged with the murder of a fellow soldier, a court was told yesterday.

Another girl on the same course told a judge and jury at Winchester Crown Court: "She was a sex maniac."

Private Jean McNeil was giving evidence in the defence of 13 paratroopers who deny raping or indecently assaulting a girl soldier at Pickett Barracks, Bulford, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, in November last year.

Whatever happened, they claim, was with the consent of the girl.

Private McNeil said that she had come to court to give a character reference for one of the defendants. She also knew the girl in the case because they had done their initial training course together two years ago.

Asked by Mr Alan Rawley, for the defence, what the other girl's interests had been, Private McNeil said: "Oh, Men."

"She was always talking about 'scoring' with men," Private McNeil said. The girl would relate her sexual experiences with men and talk of having more than one man at a time.

Private McNeil said that when she had once gone to an Army depot disco the other girl was there, and had tried to debag a soldier in the middle of the disco and reached his underpants before he managed to stop her.

"She was a sex maniac - a nymphomaniac, I suppose," Private McNeil said. The case was adjourned until Monday.

Driver in fire risk rescue wins award for bravery

A lorry driver who rescued another driver crushed in a vehicle loaded with inflammable liquids has won the 1985 Mark Vane Memorial Award for Bravery.

The citation says the action by Mr John Taylor, aged 38, of Gladstone Drive, Brinsley, Nottinghamshire, was complicated as well as hazardous. He had to get in through the rear doors of the van, then rip out a passenger seat and the dashboard.

He will be presented with the award on Tuesday by the joint organizers, Commercial Motor and Volvo.

£27,000 sought by freed Mycock

As Mr Anthony Mycock and his young family returned home by train to Heywood, Manchester, yesterday his lawyers prepared a claim for at least £27,000 compensation.

Mr Mycock, aged 32, who was released by the Court of Appeal on Thursday, said before leaving London that he was "very bitter" after serving nearly half a five-year sentence for a robbery he did not commit.

"I have missed the best years of my children's lives," the father of three said, adding that he would never have been freed without the help of reporters with the BBC's *Rough Justice* programme.

His solicitor, Mr Robert Lizar, said in Manchester that about £27,000 compensation was being sought. At least £11,000 for each year in prison was an average claim.

Drink takes toll on women

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The number of women with drink problems is fast catching up with men, according to a survey published by the Department of Health yesterday.

Admission of women to mental hospital for alcohol-induced illness increased from three men admitted to every one woman in 1971 to one woman for every two men by 1981. Deaths from cirrhosis of the liver among women are increasing faster than among men and one woman was convicted for drunkenness for every 12 men in 1981, against one for every 14 or 15 in the early 1970s, according to the survey.

The study, the first of its kind to deal specifically with women's drinking, shows most women had little idea of the relative strengths of beer, wine and spirits, although a measure of spirits, a glass of wine and a half pint of beer are all of about the same strength, and classed as one unit of alcohol.

Only two-thirds of women volunteered that drinking should be avoided in pregnancy and just over a half that it should be avoided before driving.

The survey of 2,000 women aged 18 to 24 found few heavy drinkers - less than 1 per cent drinking more than 35 units in a week. Those who did tended to be unmarried and under 25 or married without young children. Six per cent of those aged 18 to 20 admitted being drunk at least three times in the previous three months or having problems to suggest dependence on alcohol.

Women and Drinking (Stationery Office, £14.10).

Damages award for 'useless' farm weedkiller

A farmer who sued over the inadequate effect of the weedkiller "Commando" when sprayed on his fields was awarded £12,936 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Peter Wormell, of Abberton, Colchester, Essex, wanted to get rid of wild oats infesting his crop of winter wheat.

He bought the herbicide in 1983 for £7,000 after being told it was the only one capable of doing the job. He sprayed 800 acres, but most of the weeds survived.

Mr Wormell was awarded the damages against the retailers of the weedkiller, RHM Agriculture (East). The judge said that there was nothing wrong with the weedkiller itself, but because of misleading instructions it had not been applied correctly.

Inquiry ordered into marked rise of hypothermia deaths

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

An investigation into the marked increase in deaths from hypothermia during last winter's cold spell has been called for by Mr Raymond Whitney, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr Whitney has asked officials to try to explain the increase after the all-party parliamentary group for pensioners drew attention to a total of 415 recorded deaths from hypothermia in the first six months of this year against 329 in the whole of 1984, and 287 in 1983. In addition, hypothermia was mentioned on death certificates in another 395 cases in the first six months of 1985.

The recording of deaths from hypothermia is notoriously unreliable. But last year's increase coincided with a cold spell in which a new system was introduced for entitlement to extra help with heating for pensioners and other social security claimants.

The system was bitterly criticized as unfair and unworkable. It failed to allow extra payments in Kent, for example, that suffered some of its bitterest weather for years. Since then the system has been ruled unworkable. Under the

new scheme only £1.7 million in exceptionally severe weather payments were made last year against a much higher sum in the winter of 1982.

The department yesterday issued new rules on the extra payments, largely based on comparisons with old bills, people's estimates of their previous fuel consumption and discretionary judgements by benefit offices as to the severity of the weather. Even department Civil Servants have criticized the new guidelines as "incredibly vague".

Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, and joint chairman of the all-party pensioners' group, said the hypothermia death figures were "cause for deep concern. There is no earthly reason why old people should be dying of cold."

Mr Whitney's investigation comes as an article in *Health Trends*, published by the Department of Health, says that about 80 per cent of the weekly variance in deaths could be explained by severe weather. "For every degree change in the average winter temperature there is a rise or fall in the number of winter deaths by about 8,000."

AA salutes cosy farm

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

A farmhouse in the hamlet of Beercrocombe, near Taunton, has won the Automobile Association's "best newcomer" award for the exceptional comfort, courtesy and wholeheartedness of its guests.

Mr Ian Tyers, the AA's accommodation inspector, said yesterday that a stay at Whitlows Farm, a 200-acre beef and dairy business, "completely restores the faith of anyone who has spent a night in the sort of dingy holidaymakers sometimes have the misfortune to find."

Mrs Claire Mitchem, aged 37, farmer's wife, started taking guests only two years ago. She is described as "a charming hostess, full of enthusiasm who makes her guests feel very much at home."

Prices range from £9 to £11 for bed and breakfast and £14 to £16 if you take dinner.

£2m for tourists

The Scottish Tourist Board is aiming to attract double the number of American tourists by a £2 million investment in Amnet, a network of Scottish-appointed travel agents in the US, which will start by concentrating on Boston, Baltimore, Houston, San Francisco and Minneapolis.

Midland puts up charges

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Midland Bank, the first of the big four clearing banks to introduce free banking for accounts in credit, increased its bank charges yesterday, for accounts which fall into the red.

The cost of withdrawals through cash machines is being raised from 12p to 25p for each transaction. For manual transactions - including over-the-counter withdrawals by cheque, and standing orders - the charge will fall slightly from 31p to 28p. The £2 quarterly maintenance fee will remain unchanged. The new charges come into effect from Monday.

The changes come after the introduction of free banking earlier this week by Barclays, National Westminster and Lloyds.

Midland introduced free banking a year ago to attract more customers. Since then it has opened more than 450,000 new accounts, many coming from customers of banks which levied charges. Midland Bank said yesterday: "We were considering increasing the charges for accounts in the red."

"Now that we have lost the competitive advantage free banking will not be as profitable for us and our opening of new accounts is likely to become static again."



Miss Virginia Holgate, European three-day event champion who married at Badminton, Avon, today, with her fiancé, Mr Hamish Lang, at a dinner, in Wembley on Thursday, to receive a Sportswoman of the Year award.

Household rubbish being turned into oil

A revolutionary process that turns household rubbish into oil was launched as a limited company in Manchester yesterday, amid claims that it could be so lucrative as to be "almost a licence to print money".

Manoil, which has been given support of about £500,000 by Greater Manchester council, has been set up to attract funding for the process invented at Umist, the city's institute of science and technology, to turn straw, sugar beet and household rubbish into good quality oil.

Professor Noel McAuliffe,

and Mr Roger Benn, a fellow chemist, have spent the past five years perfecting the method of "pressure cooking" cellulose-based waste materials at 350°C using a metal catalyst, to produce in 10 minutes what nature takes millions of years to achieve.

The oil produced from the "biomass" feedstock has a calorific content only marginally lower than that of North Sea oil, and is non-polluting, because it contains no sulphur or nitrogen.

McAuliffe and Benn have

also used successfully coconut husks, tea leaves, sewage, and corn husks, all cheap and widely available waste materials.

Their process, at present limited to a small, 30-litre reactor which can produce up to 100 gallons of light and heavy oil from every tonne of feedstock, also produces heat-resistant asphalt, which melts only at 160°C, and carbon dioxide, both of which can be sold at profit.

Consultants recently costed a hypothetical plant in East Anglia, which would run on

straw. They found that for a capital investment of £5.6 million, using 200 tonnes of straw a day, the annual net income would be £2.1 million, with a rate of return of 34 per cent.

The chemists believe the process could revolutionize the economies of struggling Third World countries.

The county council, Umist and Salford University Industrial Centre, which are supporting the company, hope to start building a pilot plant in Boston or East Anglia by spring, 1987.

Plastic bags 'must stay'

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Councils which empty millions of the nation's dustbins said yesterday that they would resist strongly a campaign to end the packing of household rubbish in black plastic bags which are left on the roadside.

The Association of District Councils, which represents more than 300 English and Welsh councils including several large city authorities, was commenting on criticism of the ban made on Thursday by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

"It is no exaggeration to say

that many urban areas have a dirty, scruffy appearance," the Royal Commission said. Although it was cheaper for councils to collect bagged rubbish rather than empty it from bins, the bags were of the worst sources of street litter.

They were often burst by hot food thrown into them, and by passing vehicles or scavenging dogs and foxes.

Mr Roy Thomason, Conservative chairman of the association's environmental health committee, insisted that health councils are not the Royal Commission should decide how to handle refuse according to local needs.

Dustcarts have 'killed 28'

By Gregory Neale

At least 28 people have been killed and 64 seriously injured in the past decade in accidents involving dustcarts that crush their contents, a government safety study has shown.

In some cases, the accidents were said to be due to design faults in the vehicles, many of which are still in use.

The Health and Safety Executive has issued new guidance notes on the dustcarts, known as refuse compaction vehicles (RCVs).

Some of the accidents listed involved other vehicles - mostly during refuse collections on the public highway - but

nearly half the deaths happened after dustmen's hands, feet or clothing became trapped or were crushed by moving parts of the dustcart.

The moving tailgate at the back of the vehicle poses other hazards: one man died suffering an electric shock when a raised tailgate touched an overhead power line, the study reports.

In another accident, a girl was seriously injured when she crawled underneath one of the vehicles and her clothes became entangled on a rotating shaft.

Guidance Note PMS2: Safety in the use of refuse compaction vehicles (Health and Safety Executive, Stationery Office, £2.50).

Multiple sclerosis is a disease without mercy. Often tearing apart the lives of people who were living them to the full.

Whilst a few show no outward sign of handicap, the less fortunate may suffer all the misery of impaired vision, incontinence, paralysis.

As yet, no one knows why multiple sclerosis attacks the central nervous system.

Until the cause is identified, a cure remains out of reach.

However, research funded by The Multiple Sclerosis Society is fast bringing that day closer.

We also need funds to help care for many of the 50,000 already afflicted.

Please give as much as you can.



SIX MONTHS LATER
IAN HAS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

To: The Multiple Sclerosis Society, FREEPOST, 25 Effie Road, LONDON SW6 1YZ. Telephone 01-736 6267 Giro Bank Number 5149355. Please delete as applicable: I enclose a donation to The Multiple Sclerosis Society (donations accepted on request)/ Please send me the Society's leaflet on making covenants or bequests/Please debit my Access/Barclaycard the sum of £.....Card Number.....

Cardholder's signature.....

Name.....

Address.....

MS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
We can only find the cure if we find the funds.

Public Order Bill

Life ban for offenders among powers to prevent football violence

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Powers to ban football hooligans for life from prescribed matches are included in the Public Order Bill published yesterday.

A court would be able to bar anyone found guilty of a football-related offence if it believed the order would help to prevent violence or disorder at the matches prescribed.

Under the Bill, police get wider powers to prevent trouble at matches and demonstrations.

Banning hooligans
The offences that trigger the new power include all those committed inside the ground and any violence by the offender while the offender or victim is travelling to or from a match.

The courts are to be given powers also to order a person to surrender so that a photograph can be taken for the purpose of an exclusion order. Anyone defying an order will be committing an offence and may be imprisoned for one month.

An exclusion order will be for not less than three months. After a year's ban, an application can be made to the same court to have it terminated.

The court can also order the date specified or refuse the application. If it is refused, no further application can be considered for a year.

Police outside the ground, and others inside scanning faces with roving cameras, will help to enforce the ban.

Possession of smoke bombs or fireworks at or on entry to a football ground will be an offence, following the recommendations of Mr Justice Popplewell, who was appointed by the Home Secretary to report on "crowd safety and control at sports grounds".

The existing prohibition on consumption or carriage of alcohol on journeys to football matches will be extended to mini-buses.

Public order offences
Three new offences of riot, violent disorder and affray will replace the old common law offences of riot, unlawful assembly and affray. In

Main provisions

- To revise, codify and extend the common law offences of riot, unlawful assembly and affray.
- To retain life imprisonment as the maximum sentence for riot.
- To introduce an offence of disorderly conduct.
- To tighten the offence of incitement to racial hatred.

addition, the offence of threatening behaviour will be revised and extended to private, as well as public, places. In future, the measure could, for example, cover miners who pursue working colleagues into the pit and threaten them, or people who invade a military base.

For an offence of riot the Government has increased the number which need to be involved from three or more to 12 or more, and requires the use of unlawful violence to be proved in the case of each person accused.

Where three or more people are behaving violently so as to cause a person of reasonable firmness to fear for his personal safety, each person using or threatening unlawful violence will be guilty of violent disorder. The maximum penalty is five years and/or a fine.

An affray is where one or more people use, or threaten, violence against another so as to cause a person of reasonable firmness to fear for his safety. The maximum penalty is three years and/or a fine.

Disorderly conduct covers anyone using threatening, insulting abusive or disorderly behaviour when there is reasonable cause to suspect that it will cause alarm, harassment or distress to another. The maximum penalty will be £400.

Incitement to hatred

The new offence of incitement to racial hatred has been extended to include matter or behaviour intended to stir it up. And it will be an offence to possess such material with a view to its publication or distribution.

The police will be given new powers to search for, and seize,

racially inflammatory material, and the courts powers to order its forfeiture.

Processions, demonstrations and assemblies

There will be a new requirement for march organizers to give seven days' notice to the police. Those organizing marches at short notice will be required to give only such notice as is practicable. Any procession commonly or customarily held, and funeral processions, will be exempt.

The existing powers of the police to impose conditions on marches to prevent serious public disorder will be widened to enable them to impose conditions to prevent serious disruption or coercion. Similar criteria will apply to new powers to enable the police to impose conditions on the numbers, location and duration of static, open-air demonstrations and assemblies.

"Public assembly" is defined in the Bill as "three or more persons in a public place which is wholly or partly open to the air". That will cover football matches or other sporting venues fitting the definition.

But the senior police officer concerned must believe the assembly may result in serious public disorder, serious damage to property or serious disruption to the life of the community, before imposing conditions. Or he must believe that the persons organizing the assembly are doing so to intimidate others to compel them into inaction or action against their rights. The officer must think also that the conditions are necessary to prevent disorder, damage disruption or intimidation.

Any decision by the police to impose conditions will be subject to judicial review, as now. There will be no extension of the existing power to ban marches, nor any power to ban static demonstrations. There will be no requirement for advance notice of assemblies or static demonstrations. The senior police officer at the march or demonstration will be able to impose conditions, where necessary, on the spot.

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Electronic loops to aid traffic on M1

By Rupert Morris

Automatic accident warning systems are to be installed on motorways within the next few weeks as part of government plans to use new technology to make the roads safer.

Electronic inductive loops will be installed under the M1 for a 50-mile stretch through Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. The loops will be able to detect slow-moving or stationary traffic, and, with the help of electronic notice boards every kilometre, will warn motorists quickly of a possible pile-up.

The same system is to be introduced on the northern section of the M25, near the Bell Common and Holmesdale tunnels.

A new traffic scheme is being introduced on the M6 near Birmingham using traffic lights to regulate flow from slip roads at peak periods. From next spring, traffic joining the M6 southbound from Walsall or Wolverhampton may be obliged to stop at a red light if traffic reaches a certain density.

The lights, which will not stay red for more than 30 seconds, are activated by sensors under the motorway which can detect heavy traffic.

The Department of Transport is considering other high-technology safety improvements, including extension of the automatic fog warning systems in use on the M25 in the Mole Valley, and on the M4 near the Severn Bridge; bigger electronic notice boards able to carry messages of several words; surveillance cameras linked to police traffic control centres; and improvement of motorway exits.

Train collision starts gas leak

British Rail is investigating a collision between two passenger trains, one empty, at Swindon station in Wiltshire early yesterday, which led to gas leaking from a cracked main. The main was damaged when railway buffers were dislodged in the accident and the station had to be closed.

Farmer fights off charging bull

Quick thinking by Mr Haydn Thomas, a farmer, saved his life yesterday when a friesian took him by surprise as he tended his herd, crushing him into a fence and charging repeatedly. Mr Thomas, aged 42, of Whitland, Dyfed, managed to thread a wire through the ring in the bull's nose as it came in for the kill for the fifth, and probably final, charge. Then he tugged it upwards, so the horns missed butting him.

Name your 'best building'

Members of the public are being invited to nominate the best buildings completed between 1978 and 1983 for an architecture award organized by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The Marley Roof Tile Company has given £120,000 in sponsorship to run the awards for the next three years.

Jet evacuated

An emergency evacuation of a British Airways Boeing 737 was ordered as a precaution at Gatwick airport yesterday when the aircraft, on a flight from Stockholm with 83 passengers, landed - safely - with a burst tyre.

£2m for appeal

The BBC has received more than £2 million since its marathon *Children in Need* charity appeal on television and radio a fortnight ago.



Mr Lupino Lazaro, a lawyer, burning law books in front of the Manila Supreme Court in protest at the acquittal of 24 military men accused of the murder in 1983 of Benigno Aquino, the Filipino opposition leader. He represented the family of Rolando Galman, the alleged assassin.

South Asia tries to mend the rifts of a generation

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

The leaders of seven south Asian countries were gathered in the capital of Bangladesh yesterday to forge the most important link between the segments of the Indian sub-continent since the withdrawal of the British in 1947.

Today four presidents (two of whom are also chief martial law administrators), two kings and a prime minister meet to launch the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (Saaec) in an effort to heal divisions and separations that have kept them apart for 38 years.

It is a meeting that, without the usual hyperbole of such occasions, could reasonably be called historic. The countries involved are India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan and Nepal.

The lack of regional co-operation can be testified to by anyone who has tried to telephone from Karachi to Bombay, or from Kathiawar to Calcutta. It is impossible to fly directly from Delhi to any other capital in the region except Kathmandu. It took the delegation from the Maldives three days to get here.

But since the notion of institutionalized co-operation was launched five years ago, the possibilities have increased.

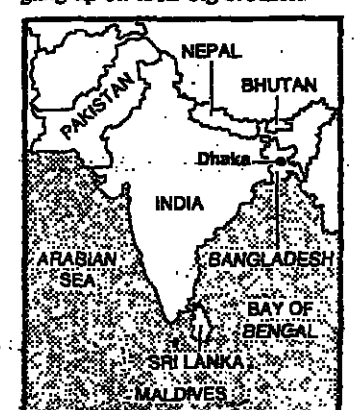
For example, part of the work of the committees of foreign department civil servants and foreign ministers this week has been to prune the number of projects proposed for the organization to undertake.

Regional seminars on training middle-ranking postal officers via workshops for coaching the rural poor, until the response from some of the smaller countries has virtually been exhausted.

"A great deal of rationalization is taking place," one of the officials said.

The organization was the brain-child of the first martial law administrator of Bangladesh, General Zia ur-Rahman, and for three years from 1977 he championed the concept.

India, in the early stages particularly, was unconvinced, thinking that perhaps the association would be a way of enabling the smaller nations to gang up on their big brother.



Even now some nations want to proceed at a slower pace than others. Sri Lanka, for example, at one time an enthusiastic advocate, is not keen on the immediate establishment of permanent institutions which other countries are advocating.

However, Bangladesh, under the eager direction of President Ershad, is pulling out all the stops to make sure that the summit is a success.

Dhaka, never one of the dirtier towns of the sub-continent, has been cleaned up again. Houses on the VIP route from the airport to the state guest houses, and from them to the

under-used Parliament building, have been ordered to be whitewashed under a municipal law dating from British days.

Twenty-five thousand special police have been drafted in to guard the visitors. Security was such that no journalists were allowed to observe the arrival of the summiteers at Dhaka airport.

People have been turned out of the two best hotels to make way for delegates and reporters. Three fountains have been built for the occasion and illuminated gaudily, and one main road to the presidential palace has been widened.

As to the meeting, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka have agreed to discuss about the Indian initiative aimed at ending the strife between the Sri Lankan Government and its Tamil minority.

Mr Gandhi will also want to talk to President Zia of Pakistan about security matters as Pakistan's reported preparedness to build an atomic bomb, and recent border fighting.

Some scratchiness between the two countries has been observed at the conference. The Pakistanis were anxious to include something about Afghanistan in the draft declarations being drawn up, but India refused.

And some offence has been taken over an interview with President Zia in which he urged India to keep "a low profile" at the meeting. "India must realize it is the smaller states which have the greater ego."

The President and Mr Gandhi had their first informal meeting last night.

Muddle as Brazilians set budget

From Sue Branford, São Paulo

The Brazilian Senate has finally approved its 1986 budget with 13 amendments after an all-night session. Approved by the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday, it has now gone to President Sarney for signature.

Because of the short time available before the Christmas recess, the debate in both Houses took place in confusion, and the final version sent to the Senate contained serious errors because of the speed with which changes were incorporated.

Many Congressmen believe that they must in future be given more time if they are responsibly to carry out their enlarged role in the new democracy.

The executive, however, expressed satisfaction. President Sarney said the outcome reflected "the harmony between the three powers", and the Finance Minister, Senator Dilsen Fumero, said the budget had been approved by Congress.

In spite of congressional approval of the budget, an influential group headed by Senator Roberto Campos, Brazilian Ambassador to London in the 1970s, is highly critical.

They claim that the budget, nicknamed the Robbing Hood Plan because it is intended to redistribute incomes, will fail to reach its objectives through its failure seriously to attack the public deficit, which they see as the country's key economic problem. They think the economy faces hyper-inflation.

In a sardonic speech, Senator Campos said: "I have lived long enough in England to be suspicious of the Robin Hood legend. The British Labour Party tried to resuscitate Robin Hood in the 20th century. The results are well known: a decline in management efficiency and a brain-drain."

A disappointed Hugh Dalton, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, summed it up: "Unfortunately, you can't make the poor richer by making the rich poorer."

Manager rearrested after new fertilizer plant leak

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

The opposition walked out of the Lok Sabha, lower House of the Indian Parliament, and the general manager of the Shyam Fertilizer Company, Mr V. D. Sharma, was rearrested after a new toxic leak from the plant yesterday.

Company officials said that the new leak could have been caused by minor damage in a chemical storage tank at the plant, which was shut on Wednesday after an earlier leak killed one person and affected more than 300 others.

Two more company officials, Mr Anil Kumar, Sindhil, plant superintendent, and Mr Pal Singh, a technician, were arrested and appeared in court charged with negligence.

The new leak, which lasted for about 20 minutes, created panic in residential areas.

Two experts, writing in the English daily, *The Times of India*, have said that, contrary to a statement by Dr S. Varadarajan, director general of the council of scientific and industrial research, that the first gas leak was harmless, the gas was "highly toxic" they say it was a mixture of sulphur dioxide, sulphur trioxide, sulphuric acid, and oleum, all which are "poisonous even in minute doses and few parts per million".

Kyprianou could be forced to resign

Cyprus poll test for UN plan

By Nicholas Ashford
Diplomatic Correspondent

More than 300,000 Greek Cypriots go to the polls tomorrow to vote in a parliamentary election which could lead to the resignation of President Spros Kyprianou and eventually pave the way for progress on the United Nations plan to settle Cyprus problem.

Strictly speaking, the presidential election is not an issue as Mr Kyprianou still has two years of his five-year term to complete. But the election, called last month after the 35-member House decided unanimously to dissolve itself, is seen as a test of support for Mr Kyprianou and his approach towards the UN plan.

The two main opposition parties, the right-wing Rally and the communist Akel, have pressed for the president's resignation since the collapse in January of talks in New York with Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, aimed at reunifying the island divided since the Turkish invasion in 1974.

Both Mr Glafkos Clerides, leader of Rally, and Mr Ezeekias Papaioannu, head of Akel, have said they will force Mr Kyprianou to resign by amend-

'Hysteria' attacked

"Anti-Turkish hysteria" The Greek Cypriot election campaign showed how distant a political settlement remained, Mr Dervis Eroglu, Prime Minister of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" said in Istanbul yesterday. (Rafik Gardilek writes).

He predicted that the Greek Cypriots would become more intransigent after the election and promised "New Dimensions to the struggle for existence" of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."

ing the Constitution if between them they achieve a two-thirds majority in the new House.

Even if they do not, they could make life very difficult for Mr Kyprianou if he refuses to step down.

In the last Parliament, his Diko party held nine seats compared with 12 Akel and 11 for Rally. Diko is expected to make only marginal gains in percentage terms this time, although it will pick up additional seats, as will the other main parties, because the

number of seats is being raised to 56.

President Kyprianou was elected in 1983 with the support of Akel, but the Diko-Akel alliance came to an end in December 1984.

Since the collapse of the settlement talks in January, Senator Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, has amended his draft plan to make it more acceptable to Mr Kyprianou. UN officials have continued to hold talks with representatives from the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, but both have accepted that no breakthrough would be possible until after this election.

Although many Greek Cypriots remain unhappy with aspects of the UN plan, they realize that time is on the side of the Turkish Cypriots.

Whereas Mr Kyprianou's future is uncertain, Mr Denktaş's party won an overwhelming majority in elections in the self-declared "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" in June. Although no country, apart from Turkey, has recognized the "republic", Turkish Cypriot rule in the northern third of the island is looking increasingly permanent.

Couple win damages for police strip

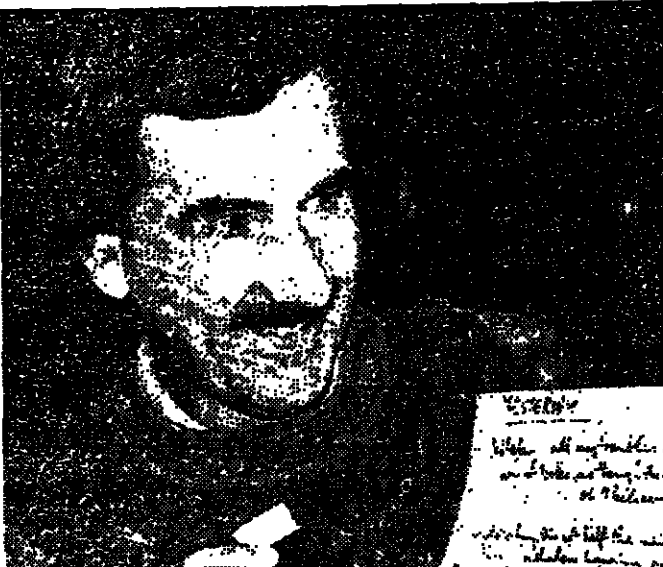
A couple who were assaulted and stripped by police searching for drugs won £3,750 damages in the High Court yesterday. A wheelchair-bound Rastafarian, Mr Patrick Wilson, and his girlfriend, Miss Susan Farbridge, of Banstead Road, Peckham, South-east London, were unlawfully treated with violence and falsely imprisoned by the police, the jury decided.

They awarded £1,750 to Mr Wilson and £2,000 to Miss Farbridge. But, because the amount for Mr Wilson fell short of the £2,505 he had been offered in settlement, his award will be swallowed in legal costs.

The court was told that in November 1982, Mr Wilson was driving Miss Farbridge to work in his specially-adapted car. He was later ordered to stop by a police car in Old Kent Road.

He was carried from his car and put in a police van, and when Miss Farbridge objected she was also taken to the van. The couple were later strip-searched.

They were charged with assault and obstruction, but were acquitted.



Hunter Davies, the Beatles' biographer, presenting memorabilia of the group to the British library yesterday (Photograph: Bill Warburton).

Artist faces sentence

A talented picture restorer who duped the Scottish art world by putting fakes on the market was sent to the High Court in Edinburgh for sentence yesterday.

Anthony Conduct, aged 29, of London Street, Edinburgh, was told by Sheriff Peppie McNeill after appearing for

sentence that he regarded the offence as "very serious". Conduct had pleaded guilty to forming a fraudulent scheme to obtain money by selling illegitimate paintings by himself but attributed to well-known Scottish artists. He further admitted inducing other people to offer the forgeries as genuine.

PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 6 1985 Violence on television

Greater sense of responsibility urged

COMMONS

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, winding up a Commons debate on violent crime by young people, criticized the Church of England report on inner city areas for a marked absence of any recognition of the importance of personal responsibility.

There was a need to promote self-control, whether of children in school, the youth club or the home, he said.

Why were there so many offences by young people? Mr Mellor asked. It was because of the instant gratification of impulse.

Frustration gave way to the instant response of criminal damage or violence. The long walk home on a wet night gave rise to the instant gratification of smashing a car window or getting in and driving it away. These had been the growth areas of crime in recent years.

Personal responsibility was crucial. Parents, the church and schools all had a duty to foster it.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith (Wexford, C), who opened the debate, said that over the years more and more research findings had concluded that frequent television viewing could influence some people to commit violent crimes and repeated exposure to television did not increase the chances that a spectator would act violently.

He moved a motion, which was agreed, calling on the Government to lead a vigorous effort to

develop in young people an increased sense of responsibility and awareness of the interests of their fellow citizens and to encourage their more active participation in their communities.

The first step was to help people in poverty. Better to spend money supporting these families than to spend even bigger sums on employing social workers after the damage had been done. That was what the welfare service had promised by the Government.

of others, and MP should set them a good example.

Mr Nigel Forster (Cardiff and Wallington, C) said a third of all offences were committed by 15 and 19 and the peak age for criminality was 15 for males and 14 for females.

A study had shown that illegitimate youngsters from broken, poor homes were more likely to be juvenile delinquents. These factors were not excuses but had to be borne in mind as part of the explanation.

We have bred (he added) a generation of spoilt children. These have grown up to become the worst possible parents.

The importance of the example set by adults had been underestimated. The teachers' strike must be ending an appalling example to millions of young people.

Mr Christopher Smith (Islington South and Highbury, Lab), said violence on TV tended to become sanitized, presentable and adaptable. For example *The 4 Toms*, watched by millions of youngsters, was a violent programme yet no one was killed or badly hurt. So the impression was given that violence was easy and all right because there was no pain.

Mr Clive Soley (Hammersmith, Lab), an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said Britain had more juveniles locked up than any other western country. The dark experiment of the short, sharp shock was producing sicker, faster running, higher jumping criminals than ever before.

To lock someone up, particularly

a young person, for a long time was to teach that person more than anything else how to live in an institution. The present disastrous policy was creating a problem for future generations which the Government had only just begun to understand.

If you undervalued your teachers you could not expect a good education system. British teachers were paid far less and their status was far lower than teachers in other, comparable countries.

Mr Mellor said schools could not claim to be more than mere factories unless they also promoted the character and personal responsibility of their pupils.

There were guidelines on violence on television, particularly on young and impressionable minds, led to demoralisation and, if dwelt on lovingly, could encourage repetition and create the impression that violence was a normal response to problems.

It was not part of the Government's duty or intention to dictate to the media, but ministers did have a duty to voice their concerns and to echo concerns felt by the public.

Under the guidelines on violence to the BBC and ITV, he had been told by the BBC that they had recently decided to re-establish the Wyatt committee to set whether further modifications were needed to the guidelines.

Whether the guidelines needed amending and assess their application. That was a very encouraging response.

In a sardonic speech, Senator Campos said: "I have lived long enough in England to be suspicious of the Robin Hood legend. The British Labour Party tried to resuscitate Robin Hood in the 20th century. The results are well known: a decline in management efficiency and a brain-drain."

A disappointed Hugh Dalton, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, summed it up: "Unfortunately, you can't make the poor richer by making the rich poorer."

Nobel selectors embarrassed by revelation of Sakharov attack

Oslo (Reuters) - The Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee said yesterday that it had not been aware that the Soviet co-winner of this year's award had signed a letter denouncing Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident physicist and peace prize winner.

Mr Jakob Syvertsen, director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, said the committee felt uncomfortable that it had not known of the 1973 letter, published in *Izvestia*, when it chose this year's winner.

The 1985 award, to be presented here on Tuesday, was given to International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, a group led by a Soviet doctor, Yevgeny Chazov, and his United States colleague, Bernard Lown. Both will receive the prize.

Mr Chazov, a deputy public health minister, has been accused by a number of West European conservative politicians, including Chancellor Kohl of West Germany of signing the letter, which they said began a campaign to defame Dr Sakharov.

Dr Sakharov was awarded the peace prize in 1975 in a clear signal to Moscow from the Norwegian committee that it disapproved of Soviet treatment of dissidents.

The committee traditionally refuses to comment on criticism of its decision, and Norwegian political analysts say the academic group is obviously embarrassed.

The physicians group chosen for the \$230,000 (153,000) prize for its efforts to publicize the medical impact of nuclear war on civilian populations is the 15th institute to receive the prize since 1901.

The 1985 prize has come under unusually strong criticism. In a letter to the Nobel Institute, Chancellor Kohl accused Mr Chazov of having taken part in a Soviet campaign to defame Dr Sakharov, who is now in internal exile in the Soviet Union.

In Oslo today, a British doctor, Allan Wynn, will accept and alternative peace prize from a private group on behalf of a Soviet psychiatrist, Dr Anatoli Korovin, imprisoned for challenging alleged Soviet abuse of psychiatry to silence dissidents.

Dr Wynn, one of the founders of the International Association on the Political Use of Psychiatry and chairman of the Andrei Sakharov Campaign, called this year's award "the greatest mistake the Nobel Committee has ever made".

Botha unrest claim at odds with facts

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The South African Government claims there has been a sharp drop in unrest in black townships, but statistics show otherwise.

On Tuesday President Botha announced that the state of emergency had been lifted in eight magisterial districts and said the "revolutionary climate" was "fast losing momentum".

Next day Mr Louis Nel, Deputy Minister of Information, said the number of incidents of serious unrest, such as stonings, riots and petrol bombings, had dropped to 2,790 in October.

He attributed this to the success of the security forces in "removing the instigators of unrest" - 6,000 political activists and others since the emergency was imposed in July. At present, according to the police, 949 are still held.

Government claims of declining unrest are belied by the number of deaths last month - at 99 the second highest monthly total this year, according to figures from police and press reports.

Since the emergency was imposed on July 21 there have been an average of 2.3 unrest-related deaths a day, compared with 1.7 a day from January 1 to July 21. The intensity of the violence has thus increased, not decreased.

Meanwhile, seven black men alleged to be members of the outlawed African National Congress were convicted of terrorism by the Estcourt Circuit Court in Natal yesterday.

Six were acquitted because, the judge said, they "believed their lives would be in jeopardy if they did not take part in the activities of the group and for this reason, and for this reason only, they went for training in the bush".

'Times' men scale the top

Kathmandu: Two men from *The Times* have climbed a 20,000ft Himalayan mountain after some of the worst weather to hit the range since records began (a correspondent writes).

Mr George Fowler, aged 66, of Wembley, a printer with *The Times*, and Mr Ronald Fox, Scottish Correspondent for *The Times*, reached the summit of Paldor in the Ganesh Himal of Nepal on November 26. With them were Mr Bill O'Connor, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, leader of the expedition, and two Sherpas.

Paldor lies in a remote region near the Tibetan border. Three British and American expeditions have failed to climb the peak in recent years.

Severe post-monsoon weather that has claimed the lives of 27 trekkers and climbers in Nepal made conditions icy. The summit was guarded by a 500ft steep, knife-edged snow ridge and topped by an overhang of frozen spindrift through which the climbers had to cut their way.

Japanese to encourage study links

Tokyo - The Japanese Government intends to introduce a law next year allowing co-operation in scientific research between domestic public bodies and foreign concerns (David Watts writes).

It would allow foreign scientists to take more part in Japanese research programmes and might revive the idea of co-operation with Britain on the fifth generation "intelligent" computer. The Japanese suggested some time ago linking research on the £275 million Alvey programme, which is working on a British fifth generation computer.

The British turned down the idea, partly because of difficulties with licensing and access to Japanese institutions and partly because the Japanese were then suggesting a link which, the British felt, would benefit the Japanese programme the more.

The proposed law, which the Government is expected to table in March, could solve most of these problems and open the way for co-operation in other areas.

OAS reform clears way for Belize and Guyana

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogota

The former British colonies of Belize and Guyana may seek membership of the Organization of American States after 1990 if they can resolve territorial disputes with their Latin American neighbours.

But under pressure from Argentina, the OAS has ruled out any possibility of the Falklands member, even if Britain were to drop its claims of sovereignty and grant the islands independence.

Reform of the controversial Article 8 of the OAS Charter, which is the key to membership, is seen as potentially the most far-reaching decision taken by the Organization during its extraordinary meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, this week.

Even so, it fell short of what the reform's chief sponsors, delegates from the English-speaking Caribbean had hoped. They had wanted membership for Belize and Guyana without strings, but praised Colombia for its diplomacy in getting the limited reform passed.

Article 8 had barred membership to any country involved in a territorial dispute with a member nation.

The proposed reform was initially opposed by Guatemala, which has long claimed Belize as its territory, by Venezuela, which claims two-thirds of Guyana's territory, and by Argentina, mindful of its Falklands claims.

Under the revised Article 8, membership will now be granted to independent states which are members of the United Nations, and to independent non-autonomous territories.

But in a key passage, clearly directed at Guyana and Belize, a clause in the new Article states that the organization will not rule on membership applications from countries whose territories have been subject to dispute before December 18, 1964 until the disputes have been resolved "peacefully".

The onus is put on Guyana and Belize to do so within five years of ratification of the reform, that is 1990.

Big Top daring leaves royalty open-mouthed



Prince Rainier (centre) biting his tongue during a daring stunt at the International Circus Festival in Monte Carlo while Prince Albert (right) and Princess Caroline watch in amazement and the actor Cary Grant remains impassive.

Fabius offer to resign turned down

Paris (Reuters) - M Laurent Fabius, the French Prime Minister, tendered his resignation to President Mitterrand but the offer was rejected, *Le Monde* reported yesterday.

The paper said M Fabius offered to resign in a half-hour telephone conversation on Thursday with the President, who is visiting the French Caribbean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. No source was given for the report.

A dispute between the men developed over President Mitterrand's decision to receive the Polish leader, General Wojciech Jaruzelski. M Fabius expressed disapproval and told the National Assembly he had not been consulted.

After the telephone call M Mitterrand told reporters he assumed full responsibility for the decision and the Government would continue in office.

Hundreds tricked in land fraud

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Forged apparently official letters were used to trick hundreds of Israelis into investing in property in non-existent West Bank settlements, according to a police investigation over two and a half years into land fraud, which is causing a serious dispute within the shaky coalition Government.

Mr Avi Tzur and Mr Claud Malka, two senior civil servants have been held for questioning about the forgeries and about possible bribes.

Both were once personal assistants to Mr Michael Dekel, a member of the Herut Party in the Likud faction, who was at one time deputy Agriculture Minister and has recently been appointed deputy Defence Minister.

The arrests of the civil servants come after that of a prominent land developer, Mr Avraham Gindi, who has been

in custody since the weekend while police investigate charges that he sold plots of land illegally.

It was only in 1979 that the then Likud Government agreed to allow Israelis to buy land in territories occupied after the 1967 war. Before any land could be bought, either for private use or for a settlement, a meticulous

procedure for ensuring that it was really available was laid down.

This ranged from searches through the Jordanian Land Registry to consultations with local village leaders. But putting up for sale the West Bank started a land rush which many unscrupulous dealers exploited.

Palestinian leaders claimed, and the police inquiry was confirmed that a network of specialists in stealing land from elderly Arab owners was set up by lawyers and estate agents. They obtained powers of attorney by falsely presenting themselves to landowners as government officials and tricked them into signing papers they often could not read.

Dr Meron Benvenisti, head of the West Bank Project which is funded by the Ford Foundation, said that some 40 per cent of the West Bank has been declared State land, which means that it can be sold off.

Neighbour inflamed by Swiss slip

Balzers (Reuters, AP) - Liechtenstein yesterday warned Switzerland that it must control its military activities on their frontier if good relations are to continue.

It follows a big forest fire, set off by a bazooka shell fired during a Swiss Army exercise, that destroyed 500 acres of woodland in the St Luzisteig pass.

The Liechtenstein Prime Minister, Mr Hans Brunhart, said the Swiss Army was irresponsible. "There must be changes in military activities in this border area," he added.

The fire is the latest in a series of accidents during Swiss Army manoeuvres on the frontier that has led to calls from politicians and the press for tighter controls on Swiss military exercises.

Later yesterday, Switzerland formally apologized to Liechtenstein.

Thousands plead for cancer drug trial

New York - Hundreds of patients are telephoning the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, asking to try the new cancer treatment announced this week (Trevor Fishlock writes).

Many are volunteering for the experimental programme as their last chance of life. But the institute cannot take any more patients. In 11 of 25 patients treated with Interleukin-2, an immune system booster, tumours shrank by more than half.

Soldier burnt

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - The body of an 18-year-old Israeli soldier was found burning in a field near a suburb here. In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility.

Rebel ambush

Bogota (Reuters) - Leftist guerrillas killed two soldiers and wounded several others when they ambushed an Army bus in the centre of the Colombian capital.

Escapers shot

Colombo (Reuters) - Ten suspected Tamil guerrillas were shot dead when they tried to escape from a military camp in Sri Lanka's eastern Trincomalee district, the Defence Ministry said.

Strike off

Madrid (Reuters) - Maintenance mechanics for Spain's national airline, Iberia, called off a 12-hour strike which forced the cancellation of 27 flights.

Politician dies

Rome (Reuters) - Signor Loris Fortuna, the Socialist politician created with making divorce and abortion legal in Italy, died, aged 61, in a clinic here.

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Crisis in Unesco

British withdrawal leaves Western colleagues perplexed and resentful

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Britain's withdrawal from Unesco has left many of its Western colleagues in the organization puzzled and resentful about what they regard as a lack of credibility on Britain's part, and fearful about Unesco's future.

They feel that significant and sometimes substantial progress has been achieved in most of the areas in which Britain first called for reform nearly two years ago. They say Britain had appeared satisfied with that progress, and then it withdrew without any reason to withdraw. Many of the reforms are they admit, mainly changes in words, most have still to be implemented. But Britain itself did not ask for fundamental reforms to be implemented within two years, simply for "substantial progress" in carrying through the reform programme it set out.

In spite of the progress made, some Western delegations are

dubious about the chances of seeing real change in the organization as long as Mr. Amadou Mahtar Mbow, the much-criticized Unesco Director General, and a dozen or so leading Unesco officials appointed by him, are still at the helm.

But neither Britain nor the United States, which left

Growth in Unesco membership and budget over the past 20 years.

Year	Member States	Budget	UK contribution
1964-65	119	\$48m	6.8%
1974-75	135	\$156m	5.3%
1984-85	160	\$382m	4.6%

Part-time staff

Year	Part-time staff	Field staff
1964-65	1,485	973
1974-75	2,162	1,241
1984-85	2,377	819

Unesco a year ago, has dared to call in public for the removal of Mr Mbow, that was never one of the conditions for Britain's remaining in the organization.

What effect will the withdrawal have on Unesco? When Britain first gave notice of its possible withdrawal a year ago, a number of Western states predicted that such a move might open the flood-gates to other departures which could ultimately prove fatal to the Organization.

The progress achieved in the past year has now apparently removed that threat. But several member states still feel that Britain's departure may prove more serious than that of the United States, in so far as the US did little to try to remove the ills of which it complained whereas Britain is generally accepted to have been the leading light in the reform process.

Some fear that process may now go into a reverse over the bitterness and resentment that Britain's withdrawal has caused among many Third World and Communist bloc countries who feel they have made concessions and sacrifices to no avail.

Other, less pessimistic, believe that the reform process will continue, but more slowly than before.

After the US left, Britain paid the fifth biggest contribution to Unesco's budget after the USSR, Japan, Germany and France. But its share of the total \$382 million (£254 million) budget for the 1984-85 biennium is still negligible compared with that of the US - 4.6 per cent against 25 per cent.

In that respect, therefore, Britain's departure will have much less effect than that of the US.

Many feel that Britain's loss will be most sorely felt in the realm of its intellectual, cultural and scientific contribution, which has been one of the most important of any country in Unesco's 40-year existence.



Israeli troops on exercise in the Negev desert taking showers to "decontaminate" special gas masks and clothing designed to protect against chemical weapons or gas.

Contra's missile hit wins Shultz cheers

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

In a sharply escalated war of words against Nicaragua, US Secretary of State, Ronald Reagan, last night applauded the anti-Sandinista guerrillas' downing of a Nicaraguan helicopter with a missile on Monday.

The use of the weapon represents a new dimension in the United States-backed struggle against the leftist Nicaraguan government.

At least a dozen advanced helicopter gunships have arrived from the Soviet Union for use against the Contras, according to American intelligence officials. Mr Shultz said the use of missiles to shoot them down was "fine, and I am all for it".

He denied adamantly that the United States supplied the weapon. Missiles had been obtained on the international market or captured from the Sandinistas, he said.

It was "very good" that the rebels seemed to have an ability to shoot down helicopters, "I

hope that they have more of these weapons," Mr Shultz added.

The Reagan Administration is also on the verge of victory in its drive to resume training and equipping police forces in Central America for the first time in 14 years.

The Senate foreign relations committee has approved \$14 million to train and equip military and police forces to fight terrorists. The 14-to-one vote represents a sharp turn around in the mood on Capitol Hill, which has refused adamantly to lift the ban on police training.

Many of the ominous quasi-military groups in Central America, including death squads, are almost certainly led by people who have benefited from training and equipment provided by the United States before the ban was imposed.

Many death squad assassinations are known to have been carried out with weapons provided to police forces by America.

Belgian court bombed

Brussels (Reuters) - One person died and several were injured when a bomb apparently meant to kill the Belgian Justice Minister, Mr Jean Gol, exploded in a packed courthouse in Liege yesterday police said.

Mr Gol, the hardline senior Deputy Prime Minister in charge of law and order, had been due to attend a swearing-in ceremony for young lawyers in the building, but was detained in Brussels by important parliamentary debate.

Radio closed in Haiti after students killed

Port Au Prince (AP) - Roman Catholic Church radio station has been closed and an opposition leader arrested in Haiti in moves apparently linked to the death of four students set in anti-government demonstration in the northern city of Gonaives.

The closing of Radio Soleil and the arrest of Mr Hurl de Ronceray came after the Presidential Minister, Mr Jean-Marie Chanoine, announced that a four-man committee was to investigate last week's shooting.

Colonel Albert Pierre, the National Police Chief, said on Thursday that Radio Soleil failed to obey an order not to discuss the deaths.

Pope to break his silence over synod

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Pope has decided to break his self-imposed silence and will address members of his special synod today before taking all of them to lunch to mark the end of a fortnight's work.

He had given the synod to understand at its opening that he would reserve his comments until the final Mass in St Peter's tomorrow. He will be delivering a homily.

The reason given was that he wished to avoid any impression of wanting to influence the outcome of the debates. He attended most plenary sessions, but gave no indication of his feelings.

That he wishes to speak now clearly does not mean that he wants to bring his weight to bear on the synod's conclusions. It is too late for that. He does, however, have to put in a plea of his own to emphasize the authority of his office and its central function in the Catholic Church, because many of the synod have done this for him.

He may feel, however, that word from him is required because of the confused way in which the synod completed its work. Its main task was to review the application of the

Delhi court stays public hangings

Delhi (Reuters) - Supreme Court here stayed a regional court order that a man and woman be executed in the first public hangings since India was independent in 1947.

The High Court in Jaipur said that Jagdish Khatri and Lichma Devi, convicted of murder in a bride-burning case, should hang in a park or stadium as a deterrent.

Khatri and Devi, the husband and mother-in-law of a woman whom they burnt to death because she did not bring enough dowry to the family, were convicted last month.

The synod began and practically ended without any specific indication of what it was supposed to produce in the way of final documents. A group of five cardinals has been busy for days with the text of a comparatively brief message to the world.

The first draft, however, was criticized heavily, largely on the grounds of being pessimistic and only yesterday could the synod fathers look at the final version of what they are due to say to humanity.

At the same time, there remained differences last night on whether the final summary of the synod's work should be given confidentially to the Pope or released for public consumption.

Muldoon wins but no damages

Wellington (Reuters) - A jury here found that Sir Robert Muldoon the former New Zealand prime minister, had been libelled in a newspaper article but declined to award him damages.

He had claimed about £230,000 in damages from millionaire businessman Mr Bob Jones, who described him in March last year as power mad.

Prison break

Cape Town (Reuters) - Three convicted robbers escaped from Pollsmoor Prison where Mr Nelson Mandela the banned ANC leader is being held. The three men overpowered a guard, took his gun and escaped in a car.

Veteran relents

Seattle (Reuters) - A Vietnam veteran said after a telephone call from President Reagan that he would call off a fast he began here in a banner case seven weeks ago. Mr Gino Casanova wanted to draw attention to the plight of Americans missing or still prisoners in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Dutch drop plea

The Hague (Reuters) - The Netherlands gave up its attempt to extradite from France two men wanted on charges of kidnapping Mr Freddie Heineken, the Dutch brewery magnate, in 1983. The French had ruled that the two could be returned only to face trial on the more minor charge of threatening life.

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Radio closed in Haiti after students killed

Port Au Prince (AP) - Roman Catholic Church radio station has been closed and an opposition leader arrested in Haiti in moves apparently linked to the death of four students set in anti-government demonstration in the northern city of Gonaives.

The closing of Radio Soleil and the arrest of Mr Hurl de Ronceray came after the Presidential Minister, Mr Jean-Marie Chanoine, announced that a four-man committee was to investigate last week's shooting.

Colonel Albert Pierre, the National Police Chief, said on Thursday that Radio Soleil failed to obey an order not to discuss the deaths.

WHO conference

From Alan McGregor, Bern

Child abuse aid team sought

The formation by the World Health Organization of an international team to advise countries on child abuse and neglect is among recommendations produced by a 30-nation conference on maltreatment of children.

"Concerned individuals everywhere must ensure that the problem is being addressed," said Dr Richard Krugman, of the Henry Kempe National Centre in Denver, Colorado.

The 120 physicians, sociologists, psychologists and social workers at the three-day meeting, also recommended a five-year action plan to "draw the attention on all levels of society to the magnitude globally of a problem with us for centuries."

"Lack of public awareness may be the greatest obstacle..."

Child abuse aid team sought

Television, radio, and the printed media should play more of an educational role for all, including both abused and abusers, they said in their conclusions.

"Within each country, there should be a focal point - preferably in government - for the protection of children's rights, needs and interests... responsible for ascertaining the extent of the problem, setting priorities, and developing identification for treatment of 'victims' and 'offenders'."

The conference underlined the difference between the Western "battered child syndrome" and the overall plight of children in developing countries afflicted by war, poverty, ignorance and malnutrition, with 25 to 50 per cent mortality, even if "non-organic failure to thrive" was a recognized conse-

quence of extreme strains to which individual children in advanced nations could be subjected.

One example of established custom perpetuating child abuse was marriage in the sub-sahel area of girls aged 14 to 15, among whom mortality in childbirth is 5 to 7 per cent.

The only encouraging news came from Dr Krugman. "The severity of American family violence has decreased over the past decade," he said. "Multiple fractures in children are now rare. The health and social services system gets involved early on. Child abuse thrives only in isolation."

But there had also been a 576 per cent increase in reported instances of sexual abuse over the same period.



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December 10th 1984

Free accounts offer to 15m in banks' battle

By Our Banking Correspondent

NEARLY 15 million more bank customers were yesterday promised that their accounts will be handled free as long as they keep them in credit.

National Westminster, Barclays and Lloyds announced that they are to follow the example of the Midland, which has gained more than 450,000 new accounts since it introduced free banking a year ago.

Daily Telegraph December 4th 1985

Customers of Barclays, Nat West and Lloyds have a lot to thank us for.



Midland
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Graham Swift and David Profumo reflect on how fishing has fed literary imaginations throughout the ages

Of pools, pike and patience I sing

I felt receptive to every sight, every colour and every sound, as though I had walked through a world from which a veil had been withdrawn." So wrote the fishing writer J. W. Hills about his lifetime's passion. In her little-known essay *Fishing*, Virginia Woolf (scarcely a writer, despite her watery death, whom one associates with rods and lines) quoted the same words as a prelude to a remarkably ambitious claim for the connections between angling and writing: Is it possible that to remove veils from trees it is necessary to fish?...

Is it possible that, if to bare reality is to be a great poet, we have no great poet because since the war farmers preserve or net their waters, and vermin get up? Has the deplorable habit of clubs to fether anglers with ridiculous restrictions, to pamper them with insidious luxuries, somehow cramped our poets' style?

The very health of literature itself, it seems, is dependent on good fishing. And this is not such a tongue-in-cheek conceit as might appear. It is not just that there happens to have been some fine writing about fishing, or that some fine writers, from Ovid to Orwell, happen to have loved fishing. It is rather that the habits and attitudes which make literature, echo to an extraordinary degree, as they do with few other specific pastimes, the habits and attitudes of fishing.

Why this singular affinity? The answer lies partly in the nature of the craft itself, and partly in the image of the fisherman as it has evolved through the centuries. H. T. Sheringham referred to angling as a "branch of human activity with its roots in culture as well as hunger". Men have fished for as long as they have hunted. And while the modern sport has become highly specialized and the image of the fisherman subsumed by civilized concerns, fishing literature remains a blend of sophistication and tenacious primitivism. Repeatedly, the best fishing writers evoke that naked sense of awe, that strange emotional fusion in which the fearsome and the desirable, the hunter and the hunted combine, which seems at the heart of all great fishing experience. William Scrope hooks a "monstrum horrendum ingens of a fish", while T. H. White once played a salmon described as "lovely and terrible, like a shark". Ted Hughes's pike-angler "cast and fished/With the hair frozen on my head/For what might move, for what eye might move..." Fishing is not a game.

The fisherman as a distinct literary type emerges in classical times. In contrast to the fishy wonders he may haul up, he is a lovely, simple, grinning patient figure; and this image of a schizoid experience, of the angler as a drab, mundane, if stubborn soul, hopelessly or pathetically attempting to engage the marvels beneath the surface, seems to have stuck. The classical fisherman is frequently destitute, old and worn out, and peculiarly prone to the extremities of chance. The fickleness of the waters brings at times great bounty, at others it works his destruction.

The tradition is plainly echoed in the miraculous aspects of fishing in the Bible.

If shepherds were the first to be told of the birth of Christ, fishermen were the first disciples. Thereafter, both trades became sacrosanct. Gervase Markham gushingly described fishing as "the Sport and Recreation of God's Saints". Such zealots forget, perhaps, that Peter and Andrew fished for their living, not pleasure, yet the image of the "fishers of men", drawn from Matthew's Gospel, only gives authority to the growing contention, in Renaissance times, that fishing has its spiritual aspect, instilling virtue and peace, if not actual holiness.

The angler, it is argued, is drawn to the love of God through the contemplation, in the scenes of his pastime, of God's creation; while the simplicity, quiet and patience of his craft mirror the ways of the hermit.

But the aspect of the angler as a blessed being is curiously confused by certain contrary and inescapable notions of fishing. The mechanics of angling, after all, suggest not virtue but treachery. Conrad Heresbach wrote, succinctly enough, in 1631, that angling is "the art of deceiving fish", and the hook and line are stock-in-trade emblems of cunning and fraud.

The 17th-century writers show considerable ingenuity in attempting to circumvent this problem. Thus, we are told, the angler is privileged to behold, in the deception of the fish, an image of the deception of man by the false lures of this world. We are reminded that God too "angles" for the souls of men.

The 17th century is, in fact, the great age of the angling allegorized, of angling as (sometimes rather tortured) metaphor. God and the Devil fish. Bunyan employs the image of the fisherman in his *Apology to The Pilgrim's Progress*. The acme of this sort of writing is perhaps to be found in the grandiloquent convolutions of Donne's sermon on Matthew 4, 18-20, preached in 1619 and revised in 1630, which elaborates the Biblical imagery of fishing to an almost dizzying extent.

Yet the presiding genius of the 17th century, and the figure to whom we owe our lasting impression, wrapped in visions of meadows and milkmaids, of that century as the golden age of angling, is of course Isaac Walton. The history of his *Complete Angler* is a classic example of small beginnings taking on a near-mythical status. When it first appeared in 1653 the *Angler* was nothing more than a slender handbook, small enough to slip into a pocket for bankside consultation.

The action beginning, as it does, on May Day, this most innocuous of books must have seemed positively subversive to the repressive Puritan regime of the Interregnum, with its total ban on festivities. By 1676, Walton had so augmented and repositioned the original, that, with the assistance of his talented young protégé Charles Cotton, who fashioned the second part, it had

Illustration by Adrian George



become the opinionated anthology-cum-manual that is so widely known even today.

But it would be a mistake, though he is popularly seen as such, to regard Walton as the founding father of English angling literature. It is in fact a moot scholarly point how much Walton cribbed from others. Shameless plagiarizing, it should be said, is a marked feature of angling writing. *The Complete Angler* is certainly, in part, an amalgam, of a happy one, of earlier writers, such as John Denny, Thomas Barker, Gervase Markham (also a literary stealer of some scope) and Janus Dubravius. For the real *fons et origo* we should perhaps turn to the late 15th-century *Boke of St Albans* which includes the *Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle*, attributed, quite spuriously, to an aristocratic nun, Dame Juliana Berners.

In the 18th century, angling emerges as a genuine recreation or sport, as opposed to a possibly pleasurable way of getting one's supper; and as early as 1724, James Saunders in *The Compleat Fisherman* is keen to emphasize not only that angling is "Sport", rather than "Work", but is "Sport" fit for a "Gentleman". Such a rigid distinction between the inferior Fisherman of Trade and the superior Angler of Leisure, Walton, with his constant sense of the humility of the craft, would scarcely have entertained.

Thus, in typically English fashion, a potentially democratic pastime is hedged round with moral reservation and social stigma. The most pronounced and snobbish notions of piscatorial hierarchy belong to the century which follows. The dominant feature, indeed, of 19th-century angling, and perhaps the most

significant theoretical innovation since Walton's time, is the emphatic division of freshwater fishing into game (salmon and trout) and coarse (other fish) categories, with an implied equivalent social distinction between the practitioners of each. Barker or Walton would have as soon fished for a carp as a trout, and, wise in the ways of fish-cooking, as soon eaten one too. Purist fly-fishermen from Victorian times onwards, one feels, would have found both catching and eating a carp equally tasteless.

This said, the fishing writing of the 19th century is rich and varied, refreshingly so after the dearth of the 18th century. A strenuous, restless, even downright athletic quality emerges which is not to be found in the peaceable Walton. Writers thrust at us their knowledge, their delight in tales of physical prowess; they

seem at all times anxious to prove their heartiness and indefatigability. It is possible to see, in this dominant tone, the same assertive spirit that moves through much Victorian moralizing, as it moves through Victorian commerce and Victorian imperialism: the insatiable need for monumental achievement, the compulsion to prove tirelessly, the desire to do, find and make Work, even out of Pleasure. It is no accident that one of the great angling writers of the age was Charles Kingsley, muscular Christian to boot them all.

Another, not unrelated feature of 19th-century angling literature was its increasing "numeration". Accounts of fishing are peppered with figures, measurements, avoidances. The record books are out. Walton may have appreciated a good-sized fish, but he seems not to have produced the scales at every opportunity. If the 17th century transformed fishing from a trade into a pastime, and the 18th century transformed it into sport or recreation, the 19th century and our own have transformed it - to its own cost, many anglers would argue - into competition. Competition, that is, not between anglers and fish but between angler and angler.

Yet, in the very final year of the 19th century, was born what to many minds is the great modern fishing classic. As Foreign Secretary Lord Grey was an intensely busy man, with onerous duties. His *Fly Fishing*, however, is like a gentle, irresistible rebuff to the fervour of so much fishing writing before him. It breathes that rare thing, peace of spirit, yet a peace of spirit simultaneously, and movingly, aware of the fragility of a pastime before those very forces of the world for which it is, potentially, a sovereign antidote. It is tempting to say that *Fly Fishing* is imbued with a consciousness of a much wider vulnerability; for it was Grey who 15 years after the first publication of *Fly Fishing* declared, "the lamps are going out all over Europe".

George Orwell, writing under the shadow of the Second World War in *Coming Up For Air*, is much more overtly, even angrily, railing. His narrator's memories of fishing as a boy are symbolic of a civilization 'just about at its last kick'.

As soon as you think of fishing you think of things that don't belong to the modern world. The very idea of sitting all day under a willow tree beside a quiet pool - and being able to find a quiet pool to sit beside - belongs to the time before the war, before the radio, before aeroplanes, before Hitler. There's a kind of peace-fishing even in the names of English coarse fish. They're solid kind of names. The people who made them up hadn't heard of machine guns, they didn't live in terror of the sack or spend their time eating aspirins, going to the pictures, and wondering how to keep out of the concentration camp.

This is a strong and seemingly despairing indictment. If it does not

LESSON IN THE DEEP ART

The Tench, the physician of fishes, is observed to love ponds better than rivers, and to love pits better than either: yet Camden observes, there is a river in Dorsetshire that abounds with Tenches, but doubtless they retire to the most deep and quiet places in it.

This fish hath very large fins, very small and smooth scales, a red circle about his eyes, which are big, and of a gold colour, and from either angle of his mouth there hangs down a little barb. In every Tench's head there are two little stones which foreign physicians make great use of, but he is not commended for wholesome meat, though there be very much use made of them for outward applications.

O Sir, doubt not but that Angling is an Art; is it not an Art to deceive a Trout with an artificial Fly? A Trout that is more sharp sighted than any Hawk you have nam'd, and more watchful and timorous than your high mettled Martin is bold? and yet, I doubt not to catch a brace tomorrow, for a friend's breakfast doubt not therefore, Sir, but that Angling is an Art, and an Art worth your learning: the Question is rather, whether you be capable of learning it? for Angling is somewhat like Poetry, men are to be born so: I mean, with inclinations to it, though both may be heightened by discourse and practice, but he that hopes to be a good Angler must not only bring an inquiring, searching, observing wit; but he must bring a large measure of hope and patience, and a love and propensity to the Art it self; but having once got and practis'd it, then doubt not but Angling will prove to be so pleasant, that it will prove to be like Vertue, a reward to it self.

From *The Compleat Angler*, 1676.

confirm that the age of fishing is over, it indirectly lays fishing open to the charge, in future, of being a kind of willful burying of one's head in the sand - or water.

Yet the claim that any private, peace-bringing recreation must be invalidated by the violent and woeful nature of the times is questionable.

Fishing, in fact, still flourishes, in the era of aspirins and machine guns, beating even the watching of football as Britain's most popular pastime. And it still brings peace to many, in contrast to football's contributions to contemporary violence.

Extracted from *The Magic Wheel*, An Anthology of Fishing in Literature, published this week in paperback by Picador, £4.95, and in hardback by Heinemann on January 13, £15.

Woodrow Wyatt

Falklands: law-law is better than jaw-jaw

Twice on the Radio 4 *Today* programme on Wednesday, Denis Healey condemned the government for being "isolated" at the United Nations over our opposition to a resolution about the Falklands. The proposal in question was that we should start talks with Argentina which would include "all aspects of the future of the Falklands". Clearly that encompasses sovereignty - something which this government has said is not open to negotiation. From Mr Healey's remarks, Labour clearly thinks it is.

Many countries which voted against us owe their existence to the British belief in self-determination. This right they are not prepared to allow to the 1,992 Falklanders, thus giving succour to the doctrine that small communities are fair game for any marauding aggressor.

The Falklanders have much to fear. It was all those talks about sovereignty, which began in 1968 and went on until 1982, which Labour used to believe that Britain would do nothing when he seized the Falklands. That Argentina is temporarily and shakily democratic would be no bar to new talks leading to the same end. Neither Labour nor the Alliance could be relied on not to give the Falklands away or defend them if attacked.

The Falklanders, now they have a splendid new airport, depend on Argentina for nothing, and before that only 5 per cent of their supplies ever came from Argentina. The Falklanders do not need Argentinean schools or hospitals and can fly to London in 16 hours, three times a week, against the one flight a week to Argentina which existed before 1982.

The cost of defending the Falklands is rapidly declining. From £684 million in 1984-85 it will be £300 million in 1987-88, including the cost of the airport. Those forces deployed in the Falklands (and they must be in training somewhere) are much more useful there than they would be waiting in Western Europe for a war which is not going to happen. No part of our defence budget is more cost-effective, and the budget would not be smaller if we stopped defending the Falklands.

Nor need the Falklands be a liability if we have the will to develop their assets. Under the sea on the Falklands side of the median line there are two basins which almost certainly contain very large amounts of oil. The Argentines have allowed oil companies to explore blocks on

their side. We, for fear of annoying the Argentines, have not yet had the courage to explore blocks for exploration.

Then there are the fish. We have not declared an economic zone for fishing because the Argentines would not like it. The Falklanders get nothing from the vast quantities now being fished around them by Poles, Russians, East Germans, Bulgarians, Japanese and almost anyone but the British. However, last month Argentina agreed to the Food and Agricultural Organization's invitation to the FAO's supervision into what fish are there and what should be done to conserve and allocate them - a small step which could be more productive than talks about sovereignty.

A similar approach might be helpful over oil. If the Argentines refused to acknowledge our right to explore and develop oil blocks on our side of the median line after such an international step was taken, we would be on stronger ground in issuing licences for exploration. Argentina's threats to interfere with our operations would be meaningless as they know that we would retaliate.

Since 1908 Britain has explored and claimed large tracts of Antarctica. In 1959, to counter Argentinean and Chilean claims to British territory, we were signatories to the international Antarctic Treaty, to which countries with no territorial claims, like the US and USSR, adhered. The treaty has put into suspension all claims. Nevertheless, it could be of great economic importance for Britain to have a presence in the area so that we can get a fair whack of any oil and other mineral wealth which technological advances may unlock during the next century. To vanish from the Falklands, South Georgia and other islands would be to renounce our share of a potential bonanza for our great grandchildren. Science fiction can, and probably will, become fact in Antarctica despite the extreme difficulties caused by two kilometres of ice on top of most of the land.

It is all a matter of will. It is well within our resources to defend the right of British subjects in the Falklands to self-determination and to our rights to the potential wealth of the region. That an occasional Argentinian president's democratic is no reason for handing him our property, particularly as we were recently at considerable pains to recover it when his predecessors stole it.

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

England: put up and put out

The entrepreneurial spirit of the Scots is justly famous throughout the Commonwealth. A further chapter has been added to the history of their commercial zeal by the officials preparing for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Edinburgh next summer. According to custom, the hosts will pay for accommodation for each country's competitors, officials: the latter numbering up to 10 per cent of its

to the ground. Chappell's humanitarian response was an instant appeal. The umpire asked Chappell if he really meant the appeal. Chappell said he certainly did. So Turner was given out, "handled the ball".

● The Barnsley goalkeeper, Clive Baker, was the Johnny Wardle Memorial Trophy for cricket. He took all 10 wickets when playing for his village side, Kexborough, last season.

● The picture on the front is a nice 16th-century painting entitled "The White Tower".

Hard Trevor

This column's award for Sportsman of the Year goes to Trevor Chappell, a member of that legendary Australian family of Corinthians. Chappell it was, you will recall, who bowled the underarm delivery when New Zealand needed six off the last ball to win. He demonstrated his abiding love of the happy give and take of sport in a Sydney grade match recently. A batsman, Ross Turner, was hit in the chest by a bouncer, and inadvertently handled the ball as he fell

competitors. England are likely to bring as many as 20 extra officials, and those teams to nostalgia for "Victorian values." Or do you believe that we are in the grasp of benighted lefties telling other people how to run their lives? Either way, it might be cheering to look across the Channel where, in recent months, a bizarre advertising campaign has been in progress.

In high summer, crossing France by car, I became aware of a recurrent poster depicting an enormous, distressed-looking baby. The slogan was "On ne dit qu'il ya un problème natalité en France". "They tell me there is a birth problem in France". Just that. More births required? Fewer? Nicier ones? Less neo-natal mortality? The word *natalité* evoked for me a page of grotesque social history - the anti-birth control scare in France after the First World War, formalized into a 1920 law which effectively made contraceptive purchase of contraceptives a crime. I could not really believe that the French, those good Europeans, were even today fussing about having enough cannon-fodder for the next war against *les boches*. I sought an alternative explanation.

I was not alone. The consensus among my rural French neighbours was that, being a large poster by the roadside, it was probably something to do with road safety. The cunning baby, it was suggested, urged: "Think of your future children!"

As I returned northwards in the autumn the poster had spawned several variants. An identical baby looking still more worried, declared "Il paraît que je suis un phénomène socio-économique". "It would appear that I am a socio-economic phenomenon". Alternatively, with a toothless leer, it inquired: "Do I look like a governmental measure?" And once, near Rouen, it stated wildly: "There's nothing to life but sex." I am predisposed to like babies, but I did not take to this one.

It also became apparent that others had failed to grasp the meaning of this expensive publicity, for by the time I reached the Channel each poster had an additional sticker on one corner. This said baldly: "France needs children."

I am not surprised that the stickers were needed. It is almost unbelievable that a prosperous, West European country should be indulging in this sort of propaganda, when near-zero population growth has come to be regarded all over the developed world as normal and desirable. The reasoning that would have Europeans try to

In pursuit of liberté, égalité, natalité

Do you hold the view that Britain is a backward country whose misguided leaders take refuge in nostalgia for "Victorian values?" Or do you believe that we are in the grasp of benighted lefties telling other people how to run their lives? Either way, it might be cheering to look across the Channel where, in recent months, a bizarre advertising campaign has been in progress.

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"keep up" with the expanding masses of Africa and Asia belongs, to a museum of crude, tropic chauvinism.

The French fear about their low birthrate has a long tradition, reaching back to the time when Napoleon's new legal system provided for the property of the parents to be divided equally among their progeny, thereby inadvertently ensuring that from about 1810 onwards no shrewd French peasant had more than two children. This does not make it a rational fear. Complete with off-the-graph projections and meaningless scare-words such as "race suicide" it is more like the fear of witchcraft.

France has 16 million more people than at the end of the last war (thanks not to patriotic coupling but to generous family allowances), yet by the 1970s the then right-wing government was declaring that a declining birthrate was one of France's main problems. Now 10 years on, the supposedly left-wing, progressive Mitterrand government is indulging in the same parochial preoccupation with *la gloire française*.

Were last summer's huge posters indeed paid for out of government funds? No one I spoke to in France assumed that the campaign could be anything but state-sponsored. The information that, in my own quixotic land, such big-brotherly behaviour would be ill-received was regarded as interesting but strange, like our antipathy to identity cards.

Two other things struck me about the campaign. One is that the message is grossly anti-intellectual. What the fussiness is saying is: "Aren't babies adorable? You go ahead and have another, don't listen to what those pompous pundits say." This, in itself, is degrading in the land of Voltaire and Descartes.

But there is another, more unpleasant message. On every poster the baby is white. And they, their slogans, have been appearing at a time when France is in the throes of one of her recurrent bouts of racism, the cure of which is the complaint that North African immigrants are having too many children and thus getting too large a slice of the welfare cake.

The real message is not that France needs more babies, but that she needs more babies of a certain kind. With a government prepared to finance this appeal, the more strident views of M. le Pen, the leader of the National Front, seems almost redundant.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE GENERAL'S COUP

By receiving General Jaruzelski at the Elysee Palace, President Mitterand has at one stroke stunned his own government, his West European partners, French public opinion, his own socialist party, Polish public opinion and, no doubt, General Jaruzelski too. What political advantage the French president believed he could gain by this extraordinary step is a question which may be answered only by a close examination of his current domestic political position and state of mind. The political advantage for the Polish president, by contrast, is obvious to all. "It is very important for me," he himself commented. To be received in a Western capital for the first time since he declared the "state of war" in Poland four years ago; to be received so soon after his own elevation to the dignity of head of state; above all to be received in Paris, the European capital to which the Poles have traditionally looked first, and which has been most demonstrative in its support for Solidarity and the democratic aspirations of the Polish people: all this must have seemed little more than a dream to the Polish leader a fortnight ago.

True, he was received with the least possible pomp and protocol. True, the visit has aroused an impressive storm of indignation in France, typified by the stout-hearted, if perhaps over-exaggerated head of the Seine *bateaux-mouches* who flatly refused to allow this "General Pinochetski" aboard any boat of

his. And President Mitterand may have lectured General Jaruzelski sternly about human rights. All this most Poles will learn from Western radio broadcasts. Nonetheless, the visit has given the Polish leader that crucial stamp of Western diplomatic recognition which he has so long sought. And for millions of Poles who still identify themselves with the ideals of Solidarity it will leave a bitter taste in the mouth.

They know that it comes at a moment when the political situation in Poland is deteriorating. Forty academics, including three university rectors, have just been summarily dismissed. At about four o'clock last Wednesday morning a young priest in Krakow was seized, bound and beaten by persons unknown who had apparently gained entry to his flat on the pretext of calling him to the bedside of a dying man. According to first reports, they tied a slip-knot round his neck, and then attached the other end of the rope to his feet — a trick used by the secret police murderers of Father Jerzy Popieluszko. At ten thirty that morning, President Mitterand greeted General Jaruzelski at the Elysee.

There is a further irony in the fact that President Mitterand met General Jaruzelski just a few hours after endorsing, as part of the Luxembourg summit package, a solemn agreement on European political cooperation. One of the main points of this agreement is a commitment by

member states to keep each other fully informed in advance about any major foreign policy steps, especially in the European arena. But were France's West European partners informed in advance, let alone consulted, about President Mitterand's major departure from a common stance? They were not.

Of course there is a very strong case for top-level political dialogue with Poland's leaders, as with all the leaders of the Soviet bloc. This dialogue cannot wait on a dramatic improvement in the regimes' respect for human rights (it might then wait for ever), although it certainly can include human rights, and a public recognition of those who fight for them, as a permanent part of the agenda.

France's socialist government has been far from backward in this respect, and President Mitterand himself struck a fine balance between the demands of diplomacy and democracy on his trip to Moscow. But the timing, presentation, style and content of his latest initiative were all disastrous. It brings a real danger that other West European powers will now tumble over each other to gain bilateral advantage by following suit. We can only hope that Herr Willy Brandt, when he addresses the Polish parliament today to mark the fifteenth anniversary of West Germany's historic treaty with Poland, will find adequate words for the other Poland represented by his fellow Nobel Prize winner Lech Walesa.

LAW AND PUBLIC ORDER

Fear of crime and public disorder breeds a mood in which all politicians may be tempted to gratify the emotions of the moment. Although the new Public Order Bill, the first such legislation for almost 50 years, was not itself conceived in haste, the details announced by the Home Secretary yesterday merit a process of rigorous public and parliamentary examination. The higher the political heat, the more light needs to be shone on the small print.

The balance between civil freedom and public protection is not struck by law alone. The answer to the question of whether recent public violence can be avoided or minimised can only be answered in a wider context. The social roots of disorder are at least some part of the answer. The equipment, manpower and operating methods of the police are as relevant as their legal guidelines. And the interpretative decisions of magistrates and judges remain important pieces of the whole.

In its proposals to deal with riot the Bill introduces only one change since the White Paper was published earlier this year. Instead of a maximum sentence of 10 years it now proposes to retain the life sentence. This shift appears to have been influenced by a rare recent life sentence which is now on its way to the Appeal Court. The Government would be wise to listen to that future judgement before closing its mind on this change.

One of the most contentious proposals remains the wholly new offence of disorderly con-

duct. It is extravagant to compare this clause to the old and discredited "sus" law because the new minor offence is more specifically described than that. It is nevertheless extremely broad in its potential application. The intention is to allow the police to convict hooligans whose victims are frightened but not harmed, and who escape conviction under the "breach of the peace" laws. The spirit of this innovation is a good one. But police application of it will require tough monitoring if the old "sus" problems are not to recur.

The central problem is that the very witnesses (other than policemen) who have suffered the worst "harassment, alarm or distress" might be the ones it is most difficult to get into the witness box — the elderly and infirm, or members of frightened racial minorities reluctant to show their faces in court. It is not difficult to see why Mr Hurd received a good deal of advice from his own department against this last minute innovation.

The 1936 Public Order Act was created in the shade of Mosleyite marches. There are now three times as many static assemblies in London as marches, and the Bill creates police powers to impose conditions on assemblies as well as marches. The Government has drawn back from giving them power to ban individual marches, leaving the existing power to apply for general bans.

The proposed powers against static assemblies create important new criteria, one of which is

very vague. A senior police officer, will be able to give directions on the duration, location or numbers of an assembly if he believes serious disorder, damage or "disruption to the life of the community" is likely or that its purpose is intimidation or coercion. An organiser faced with such directions in advance will be allowed, rightly, to apply for judicial review.

These powers may well assist the police in dealing with mass pickets, but again the discretion of the man-on-the-spot is wide in situations of possibly great political tension. The criterion concerning the disruption of community life is the most difficult. A hapless Metropolitan Police officer might be faced with a large spontaneous demonstration outside the South African or Soviet Embassy and find himself arbitrating between the value of the protest and the convenience of frustrated Christmas shoppers.

The last major change which appeared for the first time yesterday introduces the new power to exclude convicted individuals from football grounds, including powers for the police to photograph those whom they wish to exclude in the future. It seems highly unlikely that this power will be of much use unless football clubs introduce identity cards. If the police's willingness to cooperate with the new proposals speeds up the football authorities' so far sluggish response, so much the better.

LAST EXIT FROM TYNE BRIDGE

Interpreted by the art, or science, or pseudo-science of psephology (every reader will have his or her preferred terminology) the outcome of the Tyne Bridge by-election does not take us very much further than where we were already. The Conservatives have done rather badly to come at the bottom of the poll instead of in second place as they did at the general election, but it was a very low poll in a safe Labour seat.

Labour, it may be said, should have done better. If it cannot improve its vote by more than the 1 per cent at Tyne Bridge, Mr Kinnoch will never be more than a visitor at No 10.

On the whole, the SDP did best, taking second place from the Tories and more or less keeping the increased share of the poll which it has had in most by-elections of this parliament. But the SDP had its own special disappointment. The BBC had mounted an "exit poll" at Tyne Bridge, and viewers were warned that the result was to be

revealed in a Newsnight "special", followed by the "official" result, as though the second would be a hardly necessary confirmation of the first.

The exit poll duly produced the "result" of 50 per cent for Labour, 37 per cent for the Alliance and 13 per cent for the Conservatives, which would have been specially good for the Alliance. A panel of politicians comprising Mr John MacGregor, the Chief Secretary (taking a night off from the nation's accounts) Mr Roy Hattersley (nestling from inventing the socialist-market economy) and Mrs Shirley Williams enjoying a respite from whatever the SDP President does, mused cautiously on these figures.

Professor Anthony King of Essex University was "flabbergasted" by this result, but was able to spin a web of psephological reasoning from it, the gist of which was that it was very bad for Labour. The BBC pulled out

every sort of electronic device to build possible forecasts on it. Then came the real result: 58 per cent, 30 per cent, 11 per cent. Professor King professed himself "de-flabbergasted". Mr David Dimbleby discerned egg on faces. The politicians all united in enjoyment of the discomfiture of Professor King, the BBC and the poll.

As the new day dawned, the discussion and some new electronic fantasies went on, and word came from Tyne Bridge that the poll had apparently been produced in two differently constructed versions: if only the other one had been used, it was said, all would have been well. It must have been a pretty costly exercise to mount for that part of the political nation that was still out of bed. But what does that matter? There was, after all, good news in it for everybody. In the world of real democracy, nature persistently refuses to imitate art.

Spreading apple tree

From Mrs Margaret Dews
Sir, To be self-sufficient in English dessert apples need not be a matter for nostalgia. In our cottage garden, no larger than a tennis court, my husband has planted, during the last decade, his own careful selection of dwarfing rootstock.

We have Beauty of Bath in late July, Discovery in August, Worcester Pearmain and James Grieve in September, Ribston Pippin, Allington Pippin, Sunset, Blenheim

Orange, Egremont Russett till the new year, then Tydemans Late Orange and Ashmead's Kernel from January to March and Sturmer Pippin in April, May and June.

To fill the gap in early July, he has recently planted Orleans Reinette. Mrs Ellison's experience (November 21) encourages the hope that it will store.

A careful study of shaping and pruning dwarf pyramids, espaliers, cordons and open-centre bush trees means that my husband can fit in 13 varieties and proudly offers us an apple a day.

This is far from being a dutiful dose of Golden Delicious. Sweet, light summer apples are succeeded by the richer flavours of fruit mellowed in store, each one enjoyed at its best. The surplus is made into sparkling dry cider — this year seven gallons.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET DEWS,
Robin Cottage,
Post Office Lane,
Lighthorne,
Warwick.
November 21.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No need for schism on inner cities

From Lord Hunt
Sir, You will have received a spate of correspondence following disclosure of the Church of England's report, *Faith in the City*, which was revealed in yesterday's *Times* (December 2). I have not yet read the report and my sole reason for requesting space for this letter is to condemn those, including a Government minister who, without reading it, have lost no time in condemning it out of hand.

Much play is now being made of the breach which the report is in danger of widening between Church and State; I suggest that it is impatient dismissal by representatives of Government and their supporters which greatly enhances this danger, rather than the document itself.

If it is branded by some as interference by the Church of England in politics, as your leader writer today (December 3) has, in effect, so criticized it, so be it. I hold strongly to the view that all the churches have an inescapable moral duty to speak out, in the name of human compassion, when social conditions are created as a result of political action — or inertia — by whatever political parties, which have led to deprivation in the living conditions of citizens in the inner cities.

If a tiny minority choose to smear the report as the work of Marxist clerics they lay themselves open to being accused of fascism in our society; they are fortunately a tiny minority and I make no personal accusations.

You may be right in your consistent support of the Government's contention that the first priority must be to defeat inflation; but is there really, subject to this, nothing more that can still be contributed, with and without assistance from Government resources, to alleviate the growing social crisis in our cities? Surely those who have investigated the problems at first hand and in depth, such as Lord Scarman and many representatives of the church-

es, including the Bishop of Liverpool, cannot be entirely misguided in their diagnosis and proposals?

This report deserves a more positive and serious study than Mr Norman Tebbit and other ministers seem disposed to give it. Given more humility and mutual respect on both sides, there need not be, as I pray there will not be, a schism between Church and State on this profoundly important Christian and social issue.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUNT,
Highway Cottage,
Aston, Hemley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.

From the Director of The Industrial Society
Sir, This week's report by the Archbishop's commission stresses yet again the importance of employing young people in the inner-city areas.

Perhaps there is something practical each of us who employ more than 200 people can do, at little cost, to improve the situation during the last few weeks of the year.

Following the Tottenham riots, when it was suggested that companies should take on two young blacks from urban areas, the Industrial Society approached a church youth club in Islington to find a young unemployed black who was keen to work. He was taken on to do simple, basic work on a temporary basis. He was told if he could make it effective and self-financing, it would be turned into a permanent job.

Such action is particularly appropriate at Christmas when we are reminded of the inn-keeper who had a full complement, but took two extra people into second-class accommodation. From this was born the Light of the World.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GARNETT, Director,
The Industrial Society,
Peter Runge House,
3 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,
December 5.

Smoking and health

From the Secretary of the British Medical Association

Sir, In arguing against your excellent leader of November 28 the Tobacco Advisory Council's Chief Executive asserts (December 4) that the burden of proof should be on those who claim that tobacco advertising does have an effect on children. Why?

On the same day the DHSS Press release states: "Eleven to 16-year-olds are smoking between 70 million and 90 million worth of cigarettes each year"; surely the onus should be placed on the advertisers to demonstrate beyond reasonable doubt that their £110 million promotional activities have no effect on children.

The latest Government figures show that by age 16 nearly 40 per cent of children are smokers; this is an increase since 1982. Although the Government announcement of a £1 million advertising campaign to discourage children from smoking shows that it also believes that advertising has an effect on young people, this action is not enough.

The voluntary agreement on advertising and sponsorship currently under negotiation between the Government and the tobacco industry needs strengthening as a preliminary step to a ban on all promotion. As your leader says about the industry, "it is impossible to believe their claims that their intention was not to snare new smokers."

Yours faithfully,
J. D. J. A. VARD, Secretary,
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WCI.

From the Director of Ash
Sir, The Chief Executive of the Tobacco Advisory Council claims (December 4) that the industry does not want to encourage young people to start smoking. This sounds a little like the Mafia saying it does not want young people to start using drugs.

Mothers in poverty trap

From Ms Jan Hall and others

Sir, Governments traditionally have tried to give extra financial assistance to widows, especially to those who are bereaved when their children are still dependent.

The plight of some of our clients has drawn to our attention the fact that there are widowed mothers getting widows' pensions who are actually poorer than all other single parents.

In one case, a mother's allowances lift her just above the short-term rate of supplementary benefit so that she can never claim it for one year and this qualify for the more generous long-term rate. Every year this woman has £270 less than other lone parents who receive long-term rate.

In a second case, the mother was living apart from her husband when he died. She had been receiving long-term rate of supplementary benefit. Then, for six months, she

got widowed mother's allowance. After six months, however, her widow's benefit was reduced and she had to reapply for supplementary assistance.

Unfortunately, she has to go back on to the short-term rate for one year. Although she was £121 better off during the first six months of widowhood, she will lose £398 over the following year.

A similar "poverty trap" used to affect many getting invalidity benefit. The Government recognized the hardship and changed the law. A similar change could remove the present anomaly affecting widows.

Yours etc,
J. A. HALL,
JEANNE MYNETT,
STEVE MASON,
ANDY MUMFORD,
CATHERINE DANIEL,
Joint Organizers,
Citizens Advice Bureau,
199 Walworth Road, SE17,
November 19.

Future of Falklands

From Mr M. R. Meadmore

Sir, Dr Owen is reported as saying (November 29) that the "UN Charter imposes an obligation on this country . . . to try to settle disputes by negotiation". His statement omits the qualifying clause in the relevant article 2 of the Charter, viz: "in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered". The clause shows respect for the tenet of general international law that there is no obligation to settle disputes.

Negotiations on all aspects of the future of the Falklands, which the UN General Assembly urges, would include the Argentine demand for the transfer of Falklands sovereignty without application of the Charter

principle of self-determination (reports November 27 and 29). Negotiations of exactly this type in 1968 and 1977 were perceived at the time as endangering international peace and security, and justice (Franks report, paras 25 and 63). They are therefore not required under article 2 of the Charter.

The Argentine claim to the Falklands, the dependencies and British Antarctic territory is essentially a territorial one whose resolution is more likely in the International Court of Justice than through resolutions passed in the UN Decolonization Committee and General Assembly.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. MEADMORE,
8 Pennard Road, W12,
November 29.

Betting office TV defended

From the Director General of the Betting Office Licensees Association Limited

Sir, We fail to understand Dr Moran's concern (December 5) over the draft Order which, if approved by Parliament, will permit television and radio broadcasts of sporting events in betting offices.

Before Mr Rab Butler's socially enlightened legislation of 1960, the man in the street wishing to bet on horse racing was denied the opportunity available to the credit client at the upper end of the market.

In the intervening period, betting offices have shown themselves to be responsible and well-run establishments, and the off-course betting industry has earned this modest and sensible first up-dating of a law introduced 25 years ago.

Television is no longer an attraction in itself as it might have been in 1960, but again the credit client who can bet from home has the facility of television which is denied to the ordinary punter. In addition, illegal betting is a large and growing problem both for the law-enforcement agencies and for the Revenue. One of the principal attractions offered by illegal bookmakers is the ability to watch horse racing on television, whether this be in public houses, social clubs, or other premises not licensed for betting.

Dr Moran advocated strict control and monitoring of betting offices, but I would remind him that he is referring to an activity which already is strictly regulated and whose licences are renewable on an annual basis.

It is now generally accepted that anyone who enters a betting office does so with the intention of placing a bet and it can hardly be seriously argued that giving the punter an opportunity to watch his fancy on television could possibly lead to the problems indicated by Dr Moran.

Yours faithfully,
TOM KELLY, Director General,
Betting Office Licensees Association Limited,
Francis House,
Francis Street, SW1,
December 5.

Children in care

From Mr Luke FitzHerbert

Sir, The recommendations of the Beckford report concentrate on how the professionals concerned with children "in care" could do a better job; but are they in fact the people best placed to undertake the day-to-day supervision of such children as Jasmine — children returned to their families in spite of known risks of violence or maltreatment?

A recurring feature of such cases is the concerned non-professional to whom no one listens, usually a relative, a neighbour or a friend. A condition of returning such children could be the nomination, by agreement with the family concerned, of such a person who would agree to see and be with the child as often as thought appropriate or to report if they could not do so. Such failure would then be automatic grounds for the removal of the child to a place of safety.

Such a scheme would cost nothing and would almost certainly have saved the lives of both Maria Colwell and Jasmine Beckford, as well as of most of the other such children whose cases have been reported in between. It would also be some tiny recompense for those whose warnings have not been listened to in the past if we at least learnt a lesson for the future from their efforts.

Yours sincerely,
LUKE FITZHERBERT,
7 Manor Court Road,
Hanwell, W7,
December 5.

Sunday trading

From Mr D. J. Griffiths

Sir, Lord Glenarthur has told the House of Lords (*Times*, December 3) that the Shops Bill is in line with the realities of life. One reality, if it is passed, is that many reluctant shopkeepers will be forced to open on Sundays in order to keep up with their competitors. At least let that competition be fair.

Those who open seven days a week will be making more intensive use of their premises, and increasing the real value of such property to their businesses. They will also be causing extra costs to their local councils in policing street cleaning, etc. It would be reasonable, therefore, to increase their rateable values proportionately by one sixth, or about 17 per cent.

This would ensure that companies made true benefit-cost analyses, and that our traditional Sunday was not disrupted in the pursuit of marginal gains. A simple amendment to the General Rate Act (1967) is all that is required.

Your obedient servant,
D. J. GRIFFITHS,
9 Maitland Close,
West Byfleet,
Surrey,
December 3.

End of the road

From the Very Reverend H. C. N. Williams

Sir, Some years ago I was driving with Edward Patey — until recently Dean of Liverpool — in Leicester-shire. We took a short cut along a narrow farm road and came to a ford through a muddy stream. A notice stood off-centre which read: "If this notice is under water, it is too deep to drive through."

Yours faithfully,
H. C. N. WILLIAMS,
96 Stoney Road,
Coventry,
November 28.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 7 1882

The concept of a tunnel between England and France originated in the first decade of the 19th century, and since then many schemes have been proposed. A Channel Tunnel Company was formed in 1882 and near Dover a mile of tunnel was excavated in that year.

RAIL LINK WITH THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

The Channel Tunnel Company (Limited) notify their intention to apply in the next Session of Parliament for an Act to empower the company, or such other company as may be formed, to construct (1) a railway commencing in Ewell by a junction with the Chatham and Dover Railway at a point about 1,020 yards north-west from the booking-office of the Kewstey Station, and terminating in Guston, at the Dover and Deal road, about 100 yards north-east from the station, despatching two miles from Dover and seven from Deal; (2) a railway wholly in Ewell, commencing by a junction with the Chatham and Dover Railway, about 460 yards north-west from the booking-office of the Kewstey Station, and terminating by a junction with and by No. 1, about 460 yards eastward from the commencement of that railway, and about 240 yards north-westward from the George and Dragon Inn at Ewell; (3) a railway commencing in Ewell by a junction with and by No. 1, about 460 yards eastward from the commencement of that railway, and about 240 yards north-westward from the George and Dragon Inn at Ewell; 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December 7-13, 1985

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Please just let it be

Paul McCartney is still haunted by the past. Patrick Humphries talks to Yesterday's man today

The past just won't leave Paul McCartney alone. Even though he has been pursuing a solo career for 15 years, longer by far than the time the Beatles spent together, he is still referred to primarily as an ex-member of that group, and only secondarily as a rock star in his own right.

One of the problems, of course, is John Lennon. Only last night on television there was that image coming relentlessly from the screen yet again, in the first episode of a retrospective on Lennon's life. It is as though death has transformed him from a wailing memory into a legend, and virtually canonized him in a way that could never have happened otherwise. The living simply cannot compete with that.

No one is more aware of that than McCartney. He finds himself conniving in the process, even in the act of trying to set the record straight. Only four weeks ago there was the famous interview in *Woman* magazine in which he said Lennon could be a "manoeuvring swine". Then, the other day, came the re-issue of a history of the Beatles by the band's "official biographer", Hunter Davies. Meanwhile, there are all the old songs poised in the background, classics impossible to follow, particularly by the co-author himself. In 1962 one of them, "Love Me Do", had the nerve to re-enter the Top Twenty, like a corpse rising to the surface of a pond after nearly 20 years.

McCartney has even found himself back on the world's most famous zebra crossing - the one on the cover of the *Abbey Road* LP - filming a video with Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd for the John Landis film, *Spies Like Us*. Then there was the Live Aid concert at Wembley. And what did he choose to perform, but "Let It Be", from the swansong period of the Beatles' recording days.

One way and another, being Paul McCartney must feel like being the son of an over-achiever.

ing father. Except that in his case the two people are one and the same.

In 1971 he was singing that he was "looking for a home in the heart of the country", today he has found it, in the form of a large house in rural Sussex. He has also found his first, very own recording studio, which is situated nearby. The pride of ownership is apparent, and he shows off the facilities of the 48-track set-up like a child with a lavish new toy. The face is not doing badly for 43, even if "cherubic", that grossly overworked adjective of the 1960s, has finally lost its relevance.

"I do hark back to the Beatles", he says. "It's more embarrassing than anything that conversations get drawn round to it. But it was a great time. Because of the pain of the separation, of the Beatles breaking up, there was that little time when we hated any mention of it."

"But that was always going to be vying with your natural nostalgia. The further you get from that period, the more you can look at it and say 'Cor, did we do that? Course we did, wait a minute, we can still do that!'"

Nowadays the "we" does not take in Ringo Starr or George Harrison, and rumours of a re-union, with Julian Lennon standing in for his father, have been greatly exaggerated. Still, the "we" is not quite as royal as it sounds, for McCartney has his hand in various projects, of which the *Abbey Road* video for Landis is the one which makes him most excited. But even while he talks of it, those old ghosts of the late 1960s seem to re-group and stand at his shoulder.

"I love *Abbey Road*. It's a lovely studio, a perfect thing for this. There's an awareness level of it in America - if someone says 'Abbey Road', rather than another studio, it works. But we wanted to be careful, so that it wasn't 'oooh, sacrilegious.' I think that's so stupid anyway."

"I mean, I love loving the Beatles. I love loving what we did, but to be frightened of ever



Paul McCartney: 'If there's any trouble they want to dig at it.' Photograph by David Bailey

doing it again is a bit silly. I did get a moment of wondering during the video, whether I ought to be posing on the crossing. The director has agreed it's right, we want to do it, but is there something wrong with doing it? That is silly.

"A child won't have these paranoid, these worried angles about things like that. But a news person will, an analytical observer will. That's why they always come in with 'Well, Princess Diana, tell us about the troubles'. They don't want to present the pretty, sugary picture all the time. If there's any trouble they want to dig at it."

As that last remark reveals, Paul is not the most ardent lover of the media, or rather of what the media do to him. That *Woman* interview provides one of the reasons for his edginess about the post-Beatles press he has been getting. The magazine quoted him as saying that Lennon "could be a manoeuvring swine, but no sooner had it hit the news stands than headlines along the lines of 'Lennon was a swine says Paul' were appearing around the world."

The partnership remains intriguing, and always will, not just because of the quality of the songs, but also because of the extraordinary competitiveness

between the two, possibly arising from the lack of a clear division of labour - two lyricists and two composers.

"Even at the time", McCartney recalls, "people would ask me 'Are you conceited?' I'd say no, not really, but if you ask me do I like Lennon and McCartney songs, then I say I have to be conceited!"

"In my view you'd have to be stupid to say they're not good... even silly little things - 'You Know My Name (Look Up The Number)'. Silly little song. Took years to record, piecing it together, finally thinking we'd better finish it up. Didn't it come out on the B-side of 'Let It Be'? Great, what a place for it."

"It keeps turning up on 'Beatles Rarities' and 'Beatles: Even More Rarities', which I quite like, but the thing about those is that they're using the wrong take, and calling that the rarity! I think that's quite interesting, whole new areas of philosophy opened up by that one, where the take where you didn't sing it right is a rarity!"

Without the spur of his old sparring partner McCartney's writing may not have reached the same heights. And yet the best of the Wings albums have had their moments. So too have the singles: "Mull of Kintyre" recorded in November 1977

with the pipe band of Campbelltown near McCartney's Scottish farm, outsold even "Yesterday". No wonder he is now considered, in terms of pure sales, to be the most successful composer of all time, earning an estimated £7 a minute, every day of the week, every week of the year.

He has also had his critical failures, notably his 1984 film *Give My Regards to Broad Street*, and his business defeats. Earlier this year he lost out to Michael Jackson in a bid for the ownership rights on the Beatles' compositions between 1964 and 1970.

Although the country life is not conducive to keeping abreast with the latest in pop music, McCartney has his views: "I'm not a mad radio listener. There are things I get hooked on, but because I don't live up in London and I'm not out clubbing, I miss whole fads and fashions."

"I'm not sure what the last great album I heard was... that's what I like about the 1960s. It's roots music, from then. Nobody has done a hotter guitar thing than Hendrix. There's no compar-

able Dylan figure. The nearest is Springsteen. I suppose."

With the arrival of punk there came a kind of musical Stalinism, which virtually denied the significance of anything that had gone before. Now the pendulum has swung again and the music of the 1960s groups is being mined by today's performers. Some would say ripped off.

"I don't think ripped off," says McCartney. "I prefer to say 'used', as a style, as an influence - that is great."

After all these years as a songwriter - one who is capable of producing his fair share of cross between the nuggets - McCartney still feels wary of talking about the craft, as though mere discussion will damage it. His sternest critics regard him as a jumped-up jingle writer, but he sees it like this: "I was talking to this artist the other day, a painter, and he said he didn't really enjoy talking about it - it's a bit too magical. Because the minute you do start to talk about it, you lose it."

"I can't tell you how I write songs. If we had to write something to stop the war, or whatever, I could give you a formula. It's always the line you didn't think fitted that seems to work. I wrote 'Hey Jude, hey

'Cor, did we do that? Wait a minute, we can still do that'

Jude, the movement you need is on your shoulder", which just fitted, and I was always going to fix it, it was always a line down to be reworked.

"I played it to John, and he said that's the best line in it! I said don't be silly, that's the line I've got to change, like a bloody parrot on your shoulder. But he said, 'I understand it', so, okay, it stayed."

The basic thing you have to have is a tune that hasn't been heard before, words that haven't been said before. If you've been doing it for a few years, all those things are automatic. But then to try and make it something more than that... there's another area then, to try and make it special for yourself.

"I could knock out 10 melodies for you today. I sometimes wonder if it might be good to work like that. While it would drive me mad, out of the 10 there might be one good one."

"I wouldn't put myself in Dylan's class with lyrics. Dylan is more of a poet than I am. 'Yesterday' doesn't seem as poetic to me as Dylan, but maybe that's because what I'm using as terms of reference are wrong. Words were just words - then you heard people analysing them."

McCartney is a great enthusiast for pop memorabilia, and one of his most prized possessions is the double bass played by Bill Black on "Heartbreak Hotel" and bought for him by his wife Linda. He took up the instrument and picked out the bass line from that most seminal of early rock singles. It was as though he was walking through a piece of popular history with his fingers.

I mentioned that when *The Beatles Live at the Hollywood Bowl* was released, people were astounded at just how good the group was, at the height of Beatlemania, when you couldn't hear what you were playing above the screams, there being no monitors.

"That was a lot of work from Geoff (Emrick) and George (Marini). Light years of work, I just heard a tape from The Cavern, which a fan took, and that's the same thing. You realize just what a good little band we were. Really just popping, not bad at all."

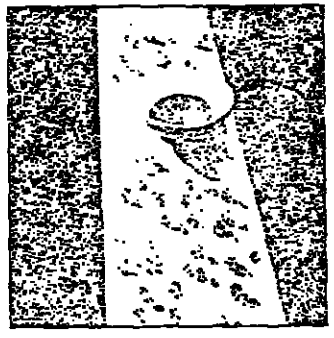
HIT LIST
AS A BEATLE
1963 Please Please Me
With The Beatles
1964 Hard Day's Night
Besties for Sale



1965 Help (including 'Yesterday')
Rubber Soul



1966 Revolver
Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts
Club Band
1968 White Album
1969 Abbey Road
1970 Let It Be
POST-BEATLES



1970 McCartney (solo album)
1971 Ram
Wildlife (first Wings album)
1973 Red Rose Speedway
Band on the Run
1975 Venus and Mars
1976 Wings at the Speed of Sound
Wings Over America
Mull of Kintyre (single)
1977 London Town
Wings Greatest
Back to the Egg
1979 McCartney II (solo)
1980 Tug of War (solo)
1982 Pipes of Peace (solo)
1984 Give my regards to... Street (solo)

SATURDAY

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Musical sponge with a lyrical style

When McCartney went into songwriting partnership with John Lennon, their declared aim was to rival the all-powerful American teams like Goffin and King, masters of the snappy but intelligent lyric.

In the end they outstripped most of the field and, whether they would like it or not, the best of their compositions can be spoken of in the same breath as those of Rodgers and Hart or Leiber and Stoller.

McCartney was the one with the more lyrical ear, a fitting counterpoint to Lennon's more scabrous style, and quite early on in the high years of their collaboration, their respective hands were clearly in evidence. McCartney, for all his apprenticeship in the rock'n'roll genre, could no more have master-minded "I Am The Walrus" than could Lennon have written a ballad in the style of "Here, There and Everywhere," still cited by Paul as one of his own best efforts.

McCartney is no plagiarist, but he has always been a highly absorbent sponge of far-flung influences, ranging from music hall, through Rhythm and Blues and Reggae, to English folksong.

His output now runs into



Fab Two: Lennon and McCartney in the studio

several hundred numbers (the figure currently registered with the Performing Right Society is 460) and, as with so many prolific hit-makers from Irving Berlin to Elton John, quickness and facility are two of the main attributes.

The anecdote which best illustrates his ability concerns the film actor Dustin Hoffman. While dining with the McCartneys he challenged Paul to set to music Pablo Picasso's last words, as reported in *Time* magazine: "Drink to me, drink to my health, you know I can't drink any more." Within seconds, rips the tale, McCartney had grabbed his guitar and was turning out what later came to be one of the better tracks on *Band on the Run*. Hoffman was so taken aback that he started shouting for witnesses.

During the post-Beatles years, particularly in his recordings with Wings, not everyone has liked the songs. For every university professor nodding his approval at the choice of chord, there has been a score of disaffected fans with brickbats at the ready.

When *McCartney II* came out in 1980, a radio disc jockey dismissed it as "doodling around, testing your tape recorder."

McCartney is aware that he infuriates listeners with his uneven approach, but he remains quite shameless about his romanticism. He has never been able to sustain a collection of songs that could form the basis of a musical in the American tradition. His own answer to these and other criticisms is quite simple: "I've done enough good things to satisfy myself."

Chris Welch is the author of a biography of Paul McCartney

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WAR ON WANT

SHOPPING

Getting the measure of gifts for parents

Three of Britain's top designers have sketched out plans which give a touch of class to the presents that children could make this Christmas. Beryl Downing reports

Now children, we all want to give our mummies and daddies a lovely surprise for Christmas, don't we? Who would like to make a pom-pom? No, James, there is no need to tell me what Daddy would do with a pom-pom. What about a needle case? Really, Helen, I can't imagine what you think the birds would do with it.

Such was the Joyce Grenfell-style scenario that made us look for something more exciting than the average school Christmas present project. We wanted something not too difficult and not too expensive that would keep the children

busy (and quiet) in the holidays but also something that parents and friends might actually use and enjoy.

So we asked three top designers to create something especially for *The Times*. David Shilling, whose hats designed for his mother to wear at Ascot have become as much of a fixture as the race itself, was asked to create a present for mothers. David Linley's talent for furniture design (owners of his famous inlaid screens include his mother, Princess Margaret, and the playwright Tom Stoppard) made him our top choice to design a gift for fathers.

And so that your trend-setters would not be overlooked, Caroline Charles, who has the Princess of Wales as a loyal supporter of her clothes, was asked to produce an idea for teenagers.

All the designers were given carte blanche - they were not confined to their specialities - for, as David Linley pointed out, he could not be responsible for letting a 10-year-old loose on the Chippendale with a chisel. We simply wanted three presents that would be fun to make and that would have a good deal more panache than a pin-cushion. These are the results.



Caroline Charles (above) describes herself as "a passionate maker of things" since the age of six when she was sent to boarding school and started making endless gifts for her mother - even weaving her own fabric.

By the time she was 11 she was so committed to dress design that she asked her father what the chances were of her marrying Christian Dior. As he thought they were fairly slim she went to art school instead and studied fashion design.

In 1963, at 21, she started her own company with one assistant. It was boom time for young swinging designers and she has remained a top name in fashion ever since.

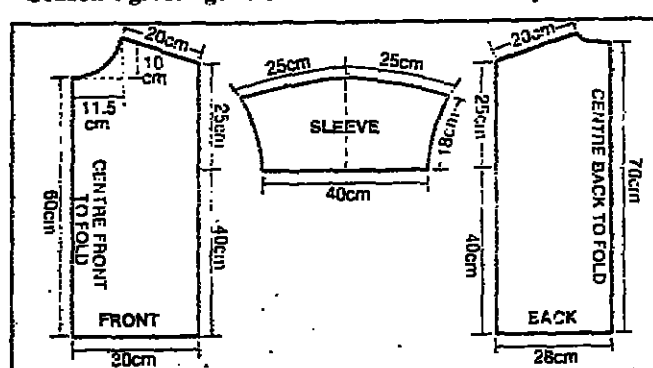
The T-shirt she has created for us is absolutely of the moment - a big baggy shape with a bright and bold decoration to turn it into a walking Christmas card. It is made in washable cotton jersey and the design is drawn on with fabric crayons.

The very simple shape is easy enough for a 12-year-old to make - our tester Elizabeth Hopkirk is just that age and the only difficulty she found was scaling up the pattern, but there are no bans on parental help.

In fact Caroline Charles thought of people who don't like sewing, too. "There is nothing nicer for a child who enjoys sewing than producing a complete garment," she says. "But if you have children like my daughter who would not even stick up a hem, you could always buy an extra large man's short-sleeved vest and get them just to paint on the design."



Season's greetings: a Christmas card T-shirt by Caroline Charles in painted cotton jersey



CAROLINE CHARLES T-SHIRT

Materials
1.20m of 140cm wide cotton jersey, preferably light colour. 50cm bias binding to match colour. Sewing thread. Pentel Fabri-Color Dye Sticks. Graph paper.

Method
1. Copy the diagram shown on to graph paper to make a paper pattern, adding 1.5cm all round for seam allowance except at centre front (C/F) and centre back (C/B). The neck needs only 0.5cm added as this is to be finished with bias binding. Place C/F and C/B to fold. 2. Pin to fabric and cut out. Remove paper pattern. 3. Draw design on T-shirt following Dye Sticks instructions (much easier when flat as the fabric stretches). 4. Pin shoulder seams together, tack and stitch. Press open. 5. Open up one side of folded bias tape and pin to neck, tack and stitch along fold mark to tape. Turn tape over to wrong side of garment and stitch another row, about 1.5cm away from neatened neck edge. 6. Pin in sleeves, tack and stitch. Press open. 7. Sew up side seams and underarms of sleeves in one. 8. Turn up 1.5cm at bottom sleeves and topstitch 5mm away from folded edge. Repeat at bottom of garment. Press to finish. Approximate cost: £9.50

STOCKISTS

Caroline Charles T-shirt: Cotton jersey £5.50 per metre, graph paper £1.95 per pack, bias binding 13p per metre, all at John Lewis, Oxford Street and branches. Pentel Fabri-Color Dye Sticks, pack of seven, 77p at the Chelsea Arts Store, 314 Kings Road, London SW3. Fowling and Wilcox, Broadwick Street, London W1. Moore and Tillyer, 39 East Street, Chichester, Sussex; Artworker, 153 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

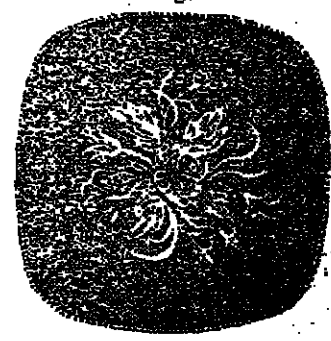
David Linley Tray: Clear polyurethane gloss varnish 250ml £1.45. Humbrol black paint 33p, both at Woolworths, or black poster paint 14ml, 56p, Winsor and Newton Gesso Acrylic Primer 250ml £3.90, both at Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Ardenbrite metallic paint, Sovereign Gold (nearest to antique gold colour) 1.25ml £3.39 at Ardenbrite Products, 57 Farringdon Road, London EC1. (Telephone 01-453 2487 for local stockists).

David Shilling Kimono: Black felt £2.35 per metre 90cm wide, coloured felt 20cm x 19p, coloured ribbon 2.5cm wide 35p per metre, ribbons 1cm wide 25p per metre, box of sequins 35p, large plastic beads, 3p each. All at John Lewis, Oxford Street, London W1 and branches.

Viscount Linley and Matthew Rice could hardly have a more distinguished artistic pedigree. David Linley is son of an artist with the camera, Lord Snowdon. Matthew Rice is son of a textile artist, Pat Albeck.

Long before David Linley studied furniture design at John Makepeace's Parham college and Matthew trained in painting and theatre design at Chelsea and Central schools of art, they made things for their parents at Christmas - pots for the Princess, clay animals and birds for the textile designer so closely associated with the National Trust. Both men firmly believe that young children should make Christmas presents rather than buy them with their parents' money.

The idea for our papier maché tray came from David, the initial drawing from Matthew and the feasibility study was done by Matthew's cousin, five-year-old Hugh Phillips (with help from his mother). The concept is immensely flexible. Children of all ages can enjoy making simple objects (I proved that with my own first attempt shown above - and I have reached the sort of patinated age known as "young at heart"). The sophistication of the finished product depends on the way the papier maché is made and on the decoration - two versions are given.



Tray designed by Matthew Rice and David Linley with five-year-old's version of their tray, and (left) Mark II, hand painted

DAVID LINLEY TRAY

Materials
Roasting tin or meat dish, flat piece of wood or baking board larger than dish, vase, three copies of *The Times*, ruler at least 12in long, packet wallpaper paste, black paint (poster or Humbrol), Ardenbrite gold paint, clear varnish, brushes, gesso primer and sandpaper for Method 2.

Method 1 (simple)
1. Turn tin or dish upside down and place on board. Grease dish well with vaseline.
2. Tear two newspapers into strips 1in wide by placing the ruler across the width and tearing along its edge (you can tear six pages at a time).

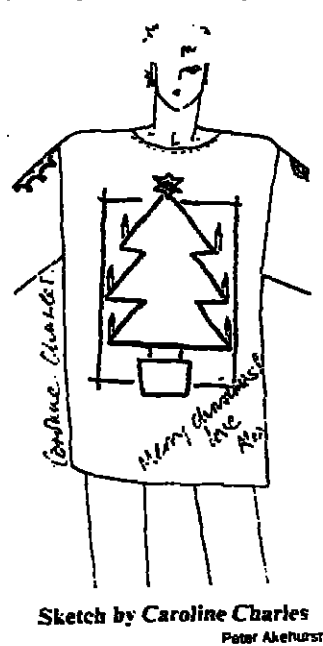
3. Make up 1 pint of paste according to instructions on packet.
4. Either dip strips in paste or brush them to soak with paste and criss cross over dish until covered with two layers. Leave to dry overnight. Repeat with another two layers next day and again leave to dry (paste will keep in a jar). Build up until 1/4in thick.
5. Remove carefully from tin.
6. Paint with black poster paint all over. Allow to dry.
7(a). Cut out decoration from magazines or catalogues and paste in position or paint your own design. Varnish for a gloss finish.
Or 7 (b). Younger children can cut out letters using the third

newspaper to make a message as shown. Letters must be glued on after varnishing as the newspaper comes off if varnished over.

Method 2 (advanced)

Repeat instructions 1 and 2 above.
3. Reserving enough strips of paper to cover the dish, tear the remainder into 1in squares and put into a washing-up bowl. Cover with hot water and leave overnight. Squeeze to break down into a porridge consistency or put through a mincer. (I used a food processor but included a lot of the liquid in order not to damage the blades). Pour off most of the liquid and knead until like grey putty. Squeeze out any remaining water.
4. Make up 1 pint of paste and add

to paper little by little until the consistency is like modelling clay. 5. Dampen the reserved strips and criss cross over the dish. This helps to prevent the papier maché sticking to the dish when dry. 6. Cover dish evenly to about 1/4in and smooth with a palette knife. Leave to dry in a warm room for at least three days. Do not put in the airing cupboard as this will warp the shape. Remove from the dish and sandpaper gently until smooth. 7. Paint with gesso primer to fill in any cracks. 8. Decorate with Humbrol paint and Ardenbrite gold paint (this is much better than Humbrol gold). Varnish as before. Approximate cost: £3 (child's) - £10 (hand painted)



Sketch by Caroline Charles

David Shilling's eye for design was obvious from the age of six. While other boys were playing with trains he was changing the look of his room every month by painting the walls a different colour - how expertly and with what is not revealed.

Also from an early age he experimented with making clothes for his parents to wear. "The whole Ascot hat thing started with that because my mother actually did wear what I made", he says. His only slight regret is that people think of him as a wildly over-the-top milliner, although in fact his showroom in Chiltern Street, London W1 is full of immensely stylish and simple hats as well as ones of gold lamé and taffeta.

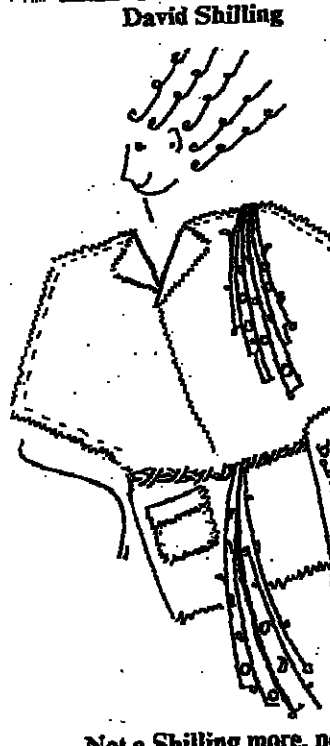
He has also designed lingerie - hence the kimono. It is in black felt which can be trimmed as lavishly as the family junk drawer permits - beads from old necklaces, ribbons, shells, feathers ("please don't take them off the canary"), silver foil, ribbon stolen from Christmas present wrappings. "I do feel strongly about black. Children tend to go a bit wild about the trimmings, but multi-colours will still look smart on a black background."

Josephine Green, our 9½-year-old tester, ("Please don't miss out the quarter," it's important when you are nine), loved her first experience with pinking shears, which are a must because the seams are not turned or otherwise finished and the scurrilous make a dramatic outline. She David at plaiting the belt. "Girls can always plait because of their hair", was his excuse.

"I think everything you do with young children should be educational as well as fun", says David Shilling. "The kimono also teaches them about textures - silk ribbons against the felt, matt and shiny surfaces, and which colour combinations work and which don't. So if your child asks you for a fiver in order to make you a kimono for Christmas, think of it as an investment."



David Shilling



Not a Shilling more, not a Shilling less: David's sparkling design from original sketch (left) to finished kimono

DAVID SHILLING KIMONO

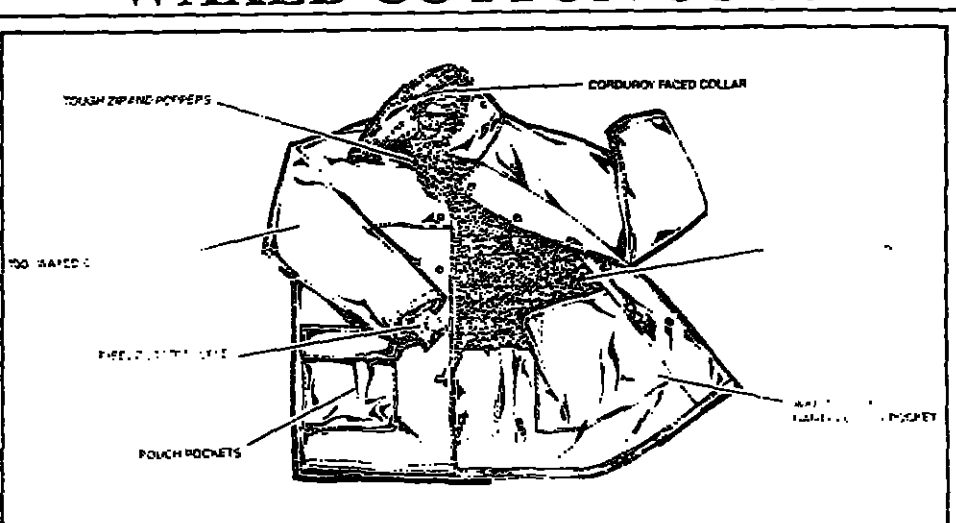
Materials
Two metres black felt 92cm wide, two patches of coloured felt 20cm square for each pocket, 6 large plastic beads, 2 metres ribbon 2.5cm wide in three different colours, 4 or 5 ribbons 30cm long for trimmings, 1 box of multi-coloured sequins, beads, shells, feathers, silver foil as available, needle, thread, pinking shears.

Method
1. Fold the felt in half widthways and cut along the centre fold to obtain two oblongs 92cm x 100cm. Fold one half lengthways and cut down fold to obtain two oblongs 46cm x 100cm.
2. Use pinking shears all the way round every edge to serrate.
3. Lay the 92cm x 100cm oblong flat, taking the 100cm as the length. Then lay the two smaller pieces on top to cover exactly. Sew along top edge from each corner, leaving gap of 28cm in centre for the neck. All seams should be about 2cm from top of serrations.
4. Leaving a gap of 31cm lengthways from the shoulder, sew down each side, stopping 23cm above the hem to leave a slit.
5. Cut all round a patch of felt and make a pocket by folding over the top 5cm, secure turn-over with a couple of stitches each side. Attach pocket to the right front about

11cm above the hem and stitch the bottom and both sides of the patch to the body fabric, leaving the top of the patch open. Repeat, lower, on left front.
6. Plait together the three colours of ribbon to make a belt and knot each end, leaving tassels.
7. For shoulder trimming, take the 30cm ribbons, decorate with as many beads, sequins, feathers and shells as you wish. Approximate cost: £6.80

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5. Cut all round a patch of felt and make a pocket by folding over the top 5cm, secure turn-over with a couple of stitches each side. Attach pocket to the right front about

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EATING OUT

There is life after the working week

It's one of the oddities of British life that at weekends when leisure is the prime objective, the catering industry seems to go into its shell, nudged perhaps by the restricted licensing hours.

As a provincial adolescent, I was always awed by the idea of a weekend in the capital. Imagine my disappointment on arriving in London to find it spluttering to a halt on Saturday lunchtime.

Most restaurants would blame lack of demand and reluctant staff. Yet the places I visited in a month of weekends were, without exception, full and enthusiastically staffed.

Take the Chantarelle in the Old Brompton Road. All right, it was a Saturday lunchtime, and Chelsea were playing at home, but I doubt if any of the diners were bound for the Shed. Instead, a pleasing mix of locals, shoppers and tourists were whiling away the hours with no office beckoning them back.

The relaxed atmosphere is helped by the restaurant's short but choice set-price menu (£6.50), offering three or four options at each stage. Starters were a warming Billie Bee soup (lightly curried with mussels), egg and mint pie, and a hot timbale of celeriac.

Imaginative cooking on a budget resulted in well-packed fish pie, roast lamb with rosemary, and chunky, savoury veal pasties in a tomato and basil sauce as main dishes - with an entrecôte and salad available for £1 extra. Pleasant puddings (strawberry sorbet, profiteroles, blackcurrant pavlova) or cheese, and plentiful coffee were encouragements to linger.

There is also a splendidly languid atmosphere at Houli's, an attractive, airy wine-bar-cum-restaurant with a splendid view of the south section of

Wandsworth Common. The informal nature of the premises is matched by a thoroughly professional operation which turns out good soups, seafood pies and grilled fish for simple snacking, and also offers a more ambitious and generally successful restaurant menu.

From here, you might enjoy pork fillet en croûte or tender roast lamb with a port sauce, before a chocolate roulade.

Other favourite Saturday lunchtime haunts include the Tate Gallery Restaurant with its dizzying, wrap-around mural. In truth, the food here is frequently school-dinnerish, both in quality and quantity, so a single course of plain-cooked fish or steak and kidney pie is often the best bet. This also allows further expenditure on the restaurant's stupendous wine list which is not at all marked-up in the usual 200 per cent range.

The Charlotte Street kebab houses are also a reliable Saturday haunt, with the Venus Kebab House being one of the most friendly and atmospheric. Apart from the traditional range of kebabs and dips, they'll often turn out fresh red mullet from the charcoal grill or squid in red wine. Don't forget a side order of their chips - crisp, golden, non-greasy specimens.

As both Chantarelle and Houli's recognize, Sunday nights need not be a lost cause for customers. They are joined in their commendable spirit of enterprise by such good quality French restaurants as Pollyanna's and Michel. Indeed, tomorrow night you may just be able to catch the last evening of Pollyanna's tribute to the cooking of Antonin Carême, the Regular Flamenco nights at La Copita, 63 Askew Road, London W12 (01-743 1289) are on Thursdays.



insigator of classic French cuisine.

The restaurant has been running a series of such tributes to great French chefs, an example of the sort of daring which allows them to take last orders at midnight every day of the week.

At Michel the cooking is much more in the contemporary mode - calves' liver with a light mustard sauce, pork fillet with leeks in puff pastry and imaginative salads - and is carried off with some aplomb. Good value set lunches and the smart decor add to the zippy feeling.

Finally, for those who prefer something "ethnic" on a Sunday night, may I suggest the newest member of the Singaporean group of restaurants, Rasa Sayang West.

Situated on the ground floor and basement of an hotel, the restaurant has an operating-theatre style sterility to the decor and atmosphere, but this shouldn't spoil the enjoyment of the inventive food - pork, beef and chicken satays with thick peanut sauce, crisp miniature spring rolls, prawns in batter, lemon chicken, and splendid noodle dishes. If your brain has given up for the weekend, try the set meal for two at £22.80, with enough courses, wine and liqueur to keep you going till Monday morning.

Stan Hey

FOOD NOTES

Chantarelle, 119 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-373 5522). Open: daily noon-2.30pm and 7-11.30pm.

Houli's, 20 Belle Vue Road, London SW17 (01-767 1859). Open: daily noon-2.30pm and 7-10.30pm.

Tate Gallery Restaurant, Millbank, London SW1 (01-834 6754). Open: Mon-Sat noon-3pm.

Venus Kebab House, 2 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-636 4324). Open: Mon-Sat noon-3pm and 6-11.30pm.

Pollyanna's, 2 Battersea Rise, London SW11 (01-228 0318). Open: daily 7pm-midnight, Sun 1-3pm.

Michel, 343 Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-603 3613). Open: daily noon-2.30pm and 7-11pm.

Rasa Sayang West, 168 Sussex Gardens, London W2 (01-402 9142). Open: Mon-Sat noon-2.45pm and 6-11pm, Sun noon-10.15pm.

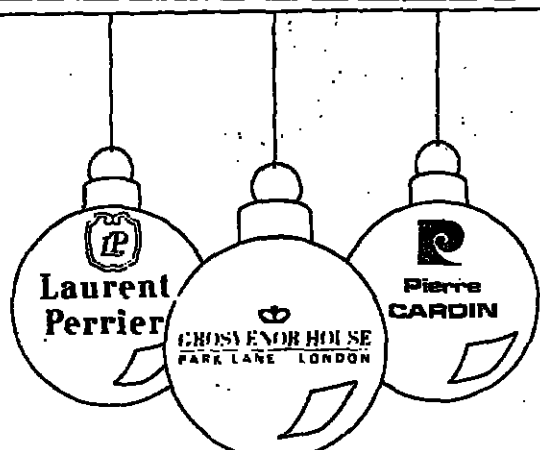
Ferreira: (n) A riveting [and often amusing] anecdote, usually recounted *after* a good meal.

Ferreira: (n) A particularly succulent grape [found in Portugal], renowned for its euphoric qualities.



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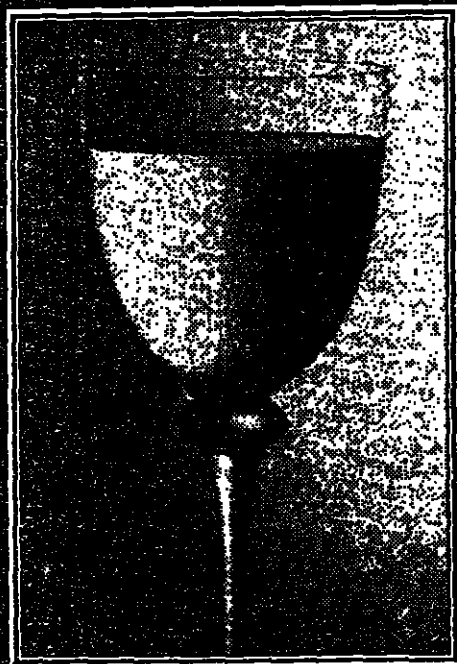
As part of the festive season at Grosvenor House during the month of December, we have pleasure in offering a selection of champagnes from the house of Laurent Perrier, complemented by our deluxe canapés and specially designed memento.

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COLLECTING

Toying with the teddy bear market

Forgers are faking the most popular soft toy, warns Victoria Mather

Teddy bears are now habitués of the smartest auction houses, cherished by a new generation of collectors. But experts suspect that some of the bears sold at antique fairs and vintage toy specialists may be fakes. This week trading standards officers have been investigating a complaint about antique bears.

At the centre of collectors' fears is the Steiff bear, the one most sought after - and thus an attractive target for fakers. The genuine Steiff is a long-limbed chap with crackly stuffing and a metal disc in his ear. He originated in Germany in 1902 but his creator, Margarete Steiff, thought he would never catch on. Confined to a wheelchair by polio, Margarete capitalized on the talent in her hands as a seamstress, making toy animals from remnants of cloth.

It was her eldest nephew, Richard, who suggested the bear, with movable head and limbs, as a promising addition to the elephants, monkeys, donkeys, pigs and camels already marketed by Margarete's deft fingers. She was not keen: the fur-like mohair plush was difficult to obtain and the bear was bigger than traditional soft toys.

It was an American in search of something cuddly who rescued the bear from obscurity. A toy importer who, according to Steiff family legend, took one look at the little fellow all alone at Leipzig Toy Fair and ordered 3,000. The bear market had begun.

To be fair, Steiff cannot claim to have made the original bear as distinguished by Teddy. Also in 1902, a Russian immigrant called Morris Michom put a stuffed bear into the window of his candy store in Brooklyn, New York. President Teddy Roosevelt had just settled a boundary dispute between Mississippi and Louisiana by drawing a new state line and while he was on the Mississippi Delta, a bear hunt had been organized for his delectation. Normally enthusiastic about shooting grizzlies (*Ursus horribilis*), Roosevelt spared the only trophy on offer that day: a bear cub driven towards the presidential rifle.

Clifford Berryman immortalized this sporting act in a cartoon of Teddy and baby bear captioned "Drawing the Line in Mississippi".

Michom saw the cartoon, stuffed his own brown plush cub, labelled it Teddy's Bear



Bearing up: four of the 300 teddies, valued at between £40 and £1,000, on sale at Christie's next Friday

and sold it within five minutes. By the end of the day he had orders for a dozen more. He felt honour bound to make a special bear to send to the White House, asking - and gaining - the President's permission to use his name.

Today the world's most popular soft toy is owned by 140 million Americans. Sixty-three per cent of British households have one but it is American artichoke that has prompted the bear boom. In Greek, *arktos* means bear and *philos* friend, a dignified interpretation of the current American fashion for executives to take bears to work in their briefcases.

On Friday, Christie's South Kensington are holding their first sale devoted entirely to teddy bears. Three hundred lots estimated in price from £40 to £1,000 for some examples from the Steiff factory are in need of good homes this Christmas. Bears at Sotheby's tend to be rather superior, the minimum lot price being £200, but these bears have been much loved.

Christie's teddy girl Olivia Bristol thinks they have more character if the plush is a little worn, the tummy a bit soft where a childish head has lain to sleep.

There is a polar bear, a musical bear (squeeze the tum to hear the tune), a bear on wheels, a somersaulting bear and a miniature bear which, if you take off its head, reveals a

lipstick while concealing a powder compact in its stomach.

The bears at Christie's come in all shapes and sizes from two inches to the six-foot giant Russian bear, Malika, the successful symbol of the campaign to re-unite 14-year-old Mishka Volkhansky from Leningrad with his dissident psychiatric mother, Marina, here in England.

The great British bear tradition includes Winnie the Pooh, Rupert, Paddington and Aloysius in *Brideshead Revisited*, who, in the recent television adaptation, also played a part in activating the bear boom, according to Bunny Campione at Sotheby's.

It was Bunny who first included bears in an auction in 1983 and Bunny who now warns to beware of false bears. They do not look like Steiffs at all, more like mice with big ears, but it's like twins if the other one isn't there how can you tell?" she says.

Villains have knocked the stuffing out of sad, dismal teddies bought at car boot sales and tried to reproduce the dry sounding crackle of an old teddy in fake fur. The eyes may well have been taken from some other animal, instead of being the genuine opaque boot button eyes. It is not safe to leave your bear outside a supermarket if you want to protect it from this venal spare part surgery.

Further reading: *Teddy Bears* by Philippe and Peter Waring (Treasure Press, £8.95). *Bears: Celebration* by Mary Hilder (Ebury Press, £8.95).

AUCTIONS

NOT FOR THE CHILDREN: Beatrix Potter limited first editions and books on the circus and conjuring feature with more sedate adult literature in Sotheby's book sale. Sotheby's, 34-5 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080). Sale Mon 11am and 2.30pm, Tues 11am.

MASTERS AND MOLS: This is the week of the Old Master Sales of the winter. Christie's have a low-life Terbrugghen of a late-player and his moll, for which about £200,000 is hoped, and Sotheby's a Venetian Canaletto for which they expect about £300,000. Phillips have a Velasquez-style portrait of one of

the first chihuahuas to be seen in Europe (£2,000 to £3,000). Sotheby's: Viewing Sun noon to 4pm; Mon, Tues, 9am to 4.30pm; Sale: Wed 11am and 2.30pm; Christie's: 8 King Street, St James's, London SW1 (01-493 8080); Viewing: Sun 2-5pm, Mon-Wed 9am-4.45pm, Thurs 9am-4pm; Sale Fri 11am. Phillips, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1 (01-229 6602). View: Today 8.30am-noon, Mon 8.30am-5pm. Sale Tues 11am.

BOY SCOUTS: Scottish paintings - Raeburn's fine portrait of a boy which could make about £200,000. Christie's & Edmonstone's, 154-6 Bath Street, Glasgow G41 324. Viewing: Mon 10am-7pm, Tues-Wed 10am-4pm, Thurs 10am-3pm. Sale Thurs 6.30pm.

Huon Mallalieu



Sleight reading: Sotheby's book sale features a 1905-10 magic act poster (left) and an 1860 conjuring manual



The Asbach Story

It could easily be argued that Ruedesheim is the gateway to that most beautiful part of the River Rhine with its vineyards and castles.

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Discover it in discerning restaurants and wine merchants, or come and see us here in Ruedesheim for a tasting, Monday to mid-day Friday. For further information write to: Weinbrennerei, Asbach & Co, 6200 Ruedesheim am Rhein, Postfach 1130, West Germany.

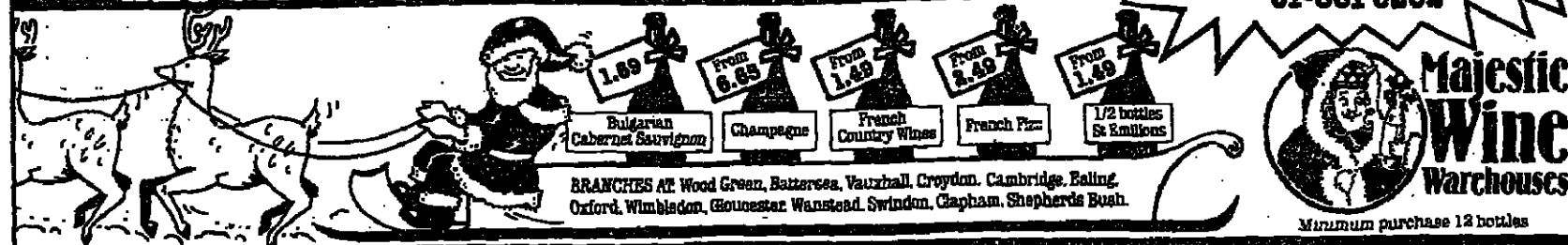


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DRINK

How to put the fizz into festive fare

The task of finding the perfect wine for each Christmas dish, guest and occasion is a tricky one. There is a guide, which does a lot of the hard work for you. My selection is as wide as possible, so that whether your Christmas includes a mother-in-law who only drinks champagne, a grand old burgundy-swinging uncle, a maiden aunt with a sweet tooth, or a tiresome wine-bore cousin, there is something here for everyone.

CHAMPAGNE

Perhaps the most important festive wine of all. For those for whom nothing less than champagne will do, the following three bubbles all came top in a recent blind tasting which I attended:

Krug Grande Cuvée Back on top form after a difficult year or two this seductive, rich-bodied fizz has bags of fruit flavour and finesse but you do, alas, have to pay for the privilege (André Simon, £25.80; Les Amis du Vin, 7 Arley Way, Wood Lane, London W12, £24.50).

Sainsbury's Extra Dry Champagne. Quarter the price but certainly not quarter the flavour. Sainsbury's current own-label champagne is the best supermarket bubbly on offer - a big, fully mouthful that, just like the Krug, is fine with food or without (Sainsbury, £5.45).

CHRISTMAS FIZZ

Don't panic if your budget just won't stretch to the real thing. Here are two Christmassy alternatives that will make a luxurious impression: 1982 Crémant de Bourgogne Rosé This delightful pale pink méthode champenoise rosé with its delicate, fresh fruit taste must be the prettiest festive fizz around and would make a wonderful start to Christmas Day (Waitrose, £4.85).

Jane MacQuitty advises on the right wines for turkey and Christmas pudding

orange juice, must be one of the cheapest ways of starting Boxing Day (Majestic Wine Warehouse, £2.58; Oddbins, £2.49).

CHRISTMAS WHITES

Finding an appetising, yet festive white wine to go with those traditional Christmas first courses of smoked salmon or consommé is more difficult than it sounds. Krug Grande Cuvée or Sainsbury's champagne are both good spirit and first-course wines. Lighter dishes such as a game consommé or a fish mousse could be partnered by the following: 1984 Montana Sauvignon Blanc Even wine bores are unlikely to have tasted this pungent, punchy, gooseberry-green wine many times before, and it is an ideal partner for any full-bodied fish mousse (André Simon, £3.95; Oddbins, £3.99).

this fresh, green-cabbagey Chablis makes a good Christmas partner with delicately flavoured consommé (Sainsbury, £4.95).

1984 Sancerre Domaine de Mercy Dieu, Domaine Bernard Bally Reverdy Sancerre, like Chablis, has become one of those smart white aperitif wines; with this delicious, fresh green, racy example it is easy to see why (Lay & Wheeler, 8 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex, £4.66).

CHRISTMAS REDS

For many, the highlight of the meal is the festive bird so, even if you have economized with the other wines, it is worth spending a little more on this course. Turkey or capon meat is not difficult to match with a suitable vinous partner: it is all those rich fatty trimmings of stuffing, bacon rolls, bread sauce and which turn it into a minefield for wine.

I feel burgundy makes a better partner with the Christmas turkey than claret, and the wine I hope to be drinking on Christmas Day this year will be of the following:

1982 Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru, Les Beaumonts, Daniel Bissey

This is what great burgundy is all about: mature garnet colour plus a glorious ripe, smoky, fragrant plummy taste and long, cedary finish. Faultless first division burgundy worth every penny of its price (Davisons, £8.49).

1980 Chassagne Montrachet Rouge, Domaine Albert Morey If you have to cater for large numbers on Christmas Day and cannot manage the extravagance of premier cru burgundy the rich, ripe, intensely plummy fruit of this wine, from one of the most respected names in Burgundy, should be your next choice. Other popular festive birds are goose or wild duck: both are fatty and more strongly flavoured than turkey so a bigger, more robust, wine is needed like this one (Davisons, £6.79).

1983 Cotes du Rhône, La Haie aux Grives, Domaine du Vieux Chêne. A modestly priced alternative is J & B's rich, juicy and attractive Cotes

du Rhône whose ripe, spicy Syrah and Grenache blend should appeal both to purse and palate (Justerini & Brooks, 81 St James's Street, London SW1, £4.50).

PUDDING WINES

Not everyone likes Christmas pudding and, for those who are serving a palate-reviving bowl of fruit, try one of the following: 1983 Château de Veyras This pale gold, pineapple-lemon Sauterne, available in half bottles, is a real bargain and would be fine with crystallized fruit or tangerines (Henry Townsend, York House, Oxford Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks, £2.49 a half bottle).

1983 Clos St Georges Graves Supérieures Another delicious, sweet, ripe, peachy pudding wine, this '83 will be much admired by your sweet-toothed relatives (Sainsbury's, £2.98).

Liqueur Muscat Few wines are blessed with the intense, gum-torturing sweetness which Christmas pudding requires, but a happy exception is Brown Brothers' sweet, almost tracy, 10-year-old Liqueur Muscat (Alex Findlater, 77 Abbey Road, London NW8, £9.70).



OUT AND ABOUT

OUTINGS

CHRISTMAS ANTIQUES: Annual fair attended by specialist dealers from all over Britain. Wentworth Woodhouse, Wentworth, Rotherham, South Yorkshire. For further information telephone 0837 84329. Today, 11am-9pm, tomorrow 11am-8pm. Adult £1.50, child free.

SANTALAND: Christmas exhibitions, Beatrix Potter stories, slideshows and end-of-season sale. Father Christmas arrives at noon. Lake District National Park, Boscobel Visitor Centre, Windermere, Cumbria (09662 2231). Today, 10.30am-2pm. Admission free.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Programme for family audiences with the Croydon Symphony Orchestra and students of the Yehudi Menuhin School playing the waits from *Sleeping Beauty*, the Pizzicato Polka and *Behr's* the Elephant. Carols for all. Fairfield Hall, Croydon (01-688 9291). Today, 11am. Tickets, at the door, £1.75-£2.50.

WINTER AT SLIMBRIDGE: Good time to visit the headquarters of the Wildfowl Trust. Among birds you may see is the veteran Bewick Swan, Lancet, who has arrived for the 23rd successive year after a 2,300-mile flight from the Russian Arctic. The Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Glos (0680 332). Daily, 9.30am-4pm. Adult £2.20, child £1.10; every other child accompanied by an adult free.

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS PARTY: Annual event at a museum which specializes in mechanical and

fairground organs, wurlitzers and steam engines, many of which will be working tonight. Thurstford Collection, Thurstford Museum, Thurstford, Norfolk (0328 7477). Tonight, 7-11pm. Adult £3, child £2.70.

THE TROUBADOURS PRESENT VOULS NIGHT: Medieval music, instruments, costumes and a court jester in an evening of entertainment at this National Trust property - originally a moated castle in the 13th century. Oxburgh Hall, Oxburgh, near Swaffham, Norfolk (036621 258). Tonight from 7pm. Adult £4, child £2.50. Check ticket availability in advance.

CHRISTMAS AT SHUGBOROUGH: Annual event at Lord Lechfield's Staffordshire home. Spiced punch, venison and game pie, hot chestnuts plus nativity tableaux and carol singing. Shugborough Hall, Milford Shugborough, Staffs (0589 861366). Wed-Thurs, 7pm-10pm. Gates open 6pm. Adult £1, child 50p. Car parking free.

OLYMPIA INTERNATIONAL SHOW-JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS: The opening night on Thurs features a gala performance in aid of Riding for the Disabled, a celebrity challenge, the Turkey Stakes, and the Pedigree Cham Celebrity Stakes with celebrity dogs and their owners. Matinee on Fri, Dec 14 and 16 are preceded by special events such as a showjumping teach-in and Pony Club mounted games (Fri). Olympia, Hammersmith Road, London W14. Thurs, Dec 16. For booking and further information telephone 01-373 8141.

Judy Froshaug



Table talk: Boswell with Johnson, the 'formidable' Mrs Williams and the house in Gough Square as it is today



And do the Publick visit still?

Nigel Andrew eavesdrops on a revealing conversation at Dr Johnson's house

Boswell: Sir, I am lately come from the vicinity of Goff Square, and I find (what cannot but amaze you) that your House, after the lapse of two centuries and more, still stands; distinguished by a suitable inscription and, in short, open to the Publick.

Johnson: I shall not pretend, Sir, that this intelligence leaves me unmoved. But, pray, how came this happy state of affairs when everywhere the face of London is, as I perceive, changed beyond all recognition?

Boswell: To be brief, Sir, your occupation, which I believe was of ten years' duration -

Johnson: Indeed, Sir, from the Year of Our Lord 1749 to 1759.

Boswell: Your occupation, as I say, was succeeded by a period of obscurity, unbroken until one Thomas Carlyle, an eminent

Author of a later age -

Johnson: And I believe, Sir, a Scotchman!

Boswell: Indeed, Sir, a compatriot of mine: but let us avoid that painful Topic. This Carlyle, as I say, being come to Goff Square in the Year of Grace 1832, discover'd your former House inhabited by a foolish old man who labour'd under the singular notion that you had practis'd there as a School-master!

Johnson: Indeed, Sir, that is most strange.

Boswell: In a latter period, the house became an *Hotel*, and after that a *Printer's shop*.

Johnson: Had that I prefer, for was it not to be in close propinquity to Mr Strahan, the *Printer of my Dictionary*, that I first remov'd to Goff Square?

Boswell: Indeed, Sir. But at a later period, the house, facing demolition, was purchased by the enlightened Cecil, Lord Harmsworth, who restor'd it, and made it over in gift to the English Nation.

Johnson: No doubt, Sir, that was bravely done. But what, pray, is the present condition of the edifice?

Boswell: I fancy, Sir, it is much as you left it, save for a pardonable deficiency in furnishings. A great many Pictures are exhibited: several of yourself, Sir -

Johnson: Though I ever entertained superstitious reluctance to sit for a picture.

Boswell: Indeed, Sir, one would not think it. But here also are represented your friends and enemies, your companions, your negro servant -

Johnson: Ay, *Francis Barber*, who foolishly went to Sea.

Boswell: Just so, Sir, and there is yet one Room, upstairs, denominated *Miss Williams' Room*, after your blind friend. I well remember taking Tea with her.

Johnson: A formidable woman, Sir, of varied parts, yet sadly lacking in good humour. I'll say no more: what other curious remembrances survive?

Boswell: One in particular, Sir, is the Arm-Chair which *Mrs Carter* gave to you, after you had found it of such eminent comfort.

Johnson: That, Sir, is a most wonderful survival: and I loved *Mrs Carter* well. She could make a pudding as well as translate Epictetus.

Boswell: There is also, *mirabile dictu*, your favour'd Gout-Chair from the Old Cock Tavern, or so it is described.

Johnson: 'Tis very likely so. But tell me, what outward tokens remain of that great Work which brought me to Goff Square?

Boswell: Sir, the *Dictionary* is indeed display'd, and at the top of the House is preserv'd the Garret where your Scotch

assistants were employ'd.

Johnson: Ay, we were all harmless drudges for those six years; and for little enough reward. Poverty is a great enemy to human happiness; and the grievous loss of my dear *Toby*.

Boswell: It has often sadden'd me, Sir, that I was never acquainted with your wife.

Johnson: Ay, but enough of these recollections. Tell me, Sir, do the Stairs still creak as loud?

Boswell: Indeed, Sir, and worse. They creak most authentically.

Johnson: And how many, pray, come to visit my former habitation?

Boswell: I am inform'd, Sir, some fourteen thousand per annum in round figures.

Johnson: Round figures are always false.

Boswell: I think not, Sir: but what is most marvellous to relate, is that a majority of these Devotees are from the *American Colonies*!

Johnson: This is hard, Sir, very hard. I am willing to love all mankind, except an *American*.

Boswell: But the *Americans*, Sir, will love you regardless.

Johnson: Well, so be it. It is all most strange. I thank you, Sir, for your account. Now, shall we take a dish of Tea?

Dr Johnson's House is at 17 Gough Square, London EC4 (01-353 2745).

NO. 6 IN A SERIES OF LAGAVULIN LORE

WE'D LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST

Many a glass of whisky is raised in a toast. But when the whisky is White Horse it should be lifted respectfully to the memory of its founder, Peter James Mackie, who first fully understood the virtues, ... and the good fortune ... of the Lagavulin malt whisky distillery.

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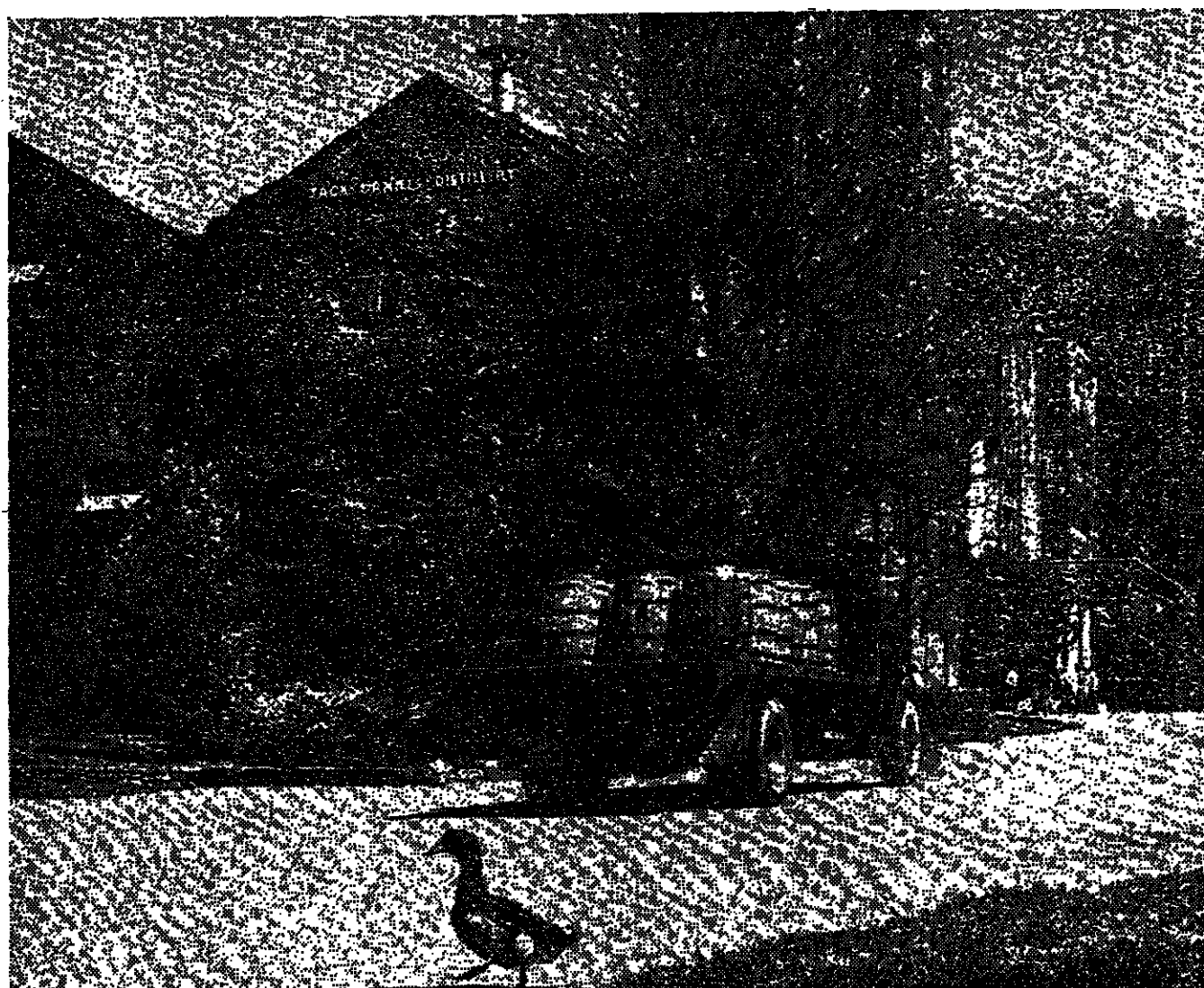
At Christmas the tradition is of course Roast Turkey, but many choose Goose, Chicken, Duck, Beef or Game. Whatever the fayne, hot or cold, drink a delicious Rioja wine, a velvety red or a dry fruity white. Don't forget those working in the kitchen! A glass of Rioja whilst preparing the family feast is always appreciated.

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For further information please contact The Rioja Wine Information Centre, Vinos de España, 22 Manchester Square, London W1. Tel: 01-935 5140.



"Every grape has its own history to relate. Press it, and it will speak of the sun, of its roots, and the soil from which it was born." BARON PHILIPPE DE ROTHSCHILD

OF THOSE FEW pray to the profound mysteries of the vine, surely Baron Philippe de Rothschild is the nonpareil. It is at his insistence that we bring MOËT & CHANDON to your attention. The range is vintage claret - full, round, fruity and smooth. The blanc ex. too, is vintage Bordeaux - dry, light and fresh. Both bear more than the commendation of the Baron. He has judged them worthy to bear his name.

Philippe de Rothschild

TWO THINGS HAVE PUT the small town of Lynchburg, Tennessee on the map. One is the distillery you're looking at, the oldest registered distillery in America. The other is the unique whiskey that's produced here, Jack Daniel's.

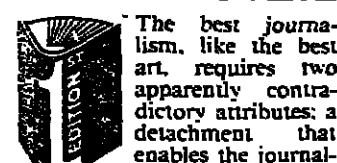
It's always been distilled here, and only ever here. And it's been a way of life for over 100 years. So no wonder people call it good ol' Tennessee sippin' whiskey.

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Paperbacks

Low life and times in Fleet Street

David Low by Colin Seymour-Ure and Jim Schoff (Secker & Warburg, £9.95)
Fourth-Rate Estate An anatomy of Fleet Street by Tom Baird (Corgi, £2.95)
Newspapers by John Westmacott (The British Library, no price given)



The best journalism, like the best art, requires two apparently contradictory attributes: a detachment that enables the journalist, or artist, to see things in proportion, and an involvement that gives him something to say.

David Low, the cartoonist, was one of the few who combined these attributes so well that he became an international celebrity.

Colin Seymour-Ure and Jim Schoff, in their book *David Low*, which coincides with an exhibition of his work at the National Portrait Gallery, describe him as "at heart an individualist", and add that "the independence of mind and action that he wished for himself, he wished also for others".

He was, of course, no mean artist, and was acknowledged as such by critics and contemporaries. The chapter on Low's art is fascinating, analysing many of his techniques with the help of his own writings.

Describing how he drew George Bernard Shaw, Low wrote: "We must have that hand on the hip, characteristic of the platform Shaw, but we will also hint that there still survives a little self-conscious Shaw inside that has to fumble at his coat-button." But Low is remembered chiefly for his message.

While politicians prevaricated, Low identified the Fascist threat and exposed it to the full. He pictured Mussolini as a mad-dog or a barrel-chested windbag, Hitler as a prancing maniac with an elongated arm with which he was constantly giving his absurd salute.

Among his countless memorable cartoons of the period is one entitled "Stepping-Stones to Glory", in which Hitler is shown goose-stepping his way across the backs of the "Spineless Leaders of Democracy".

Low wrote: "I have been looking at some 'anti-Nazi' cartoons from Denmark current



LOW COMPANY.

in 1937 showing Nazi leaders as dreadful powerful brutes. That kind of thing no doubt had the effect of building up the idea that Hitler was too, too, too powerful to resist. . . . Personally, I know that the cartoons of mine that got under their skins most were those which made them look like damned fools." He was quite right, and in 1933 one of Low's cartoons led to Beaverbrook's newspapers being banned from Germany. The character of Colonel Blimp was similarly designed to provoke ridicule rather than horror.

In 1944 he told the *Chicago*

Sun: "I am sick of all this obsolete rot about 'class war'. The only class war I am interested in is that between the sane and the insane."

This book, with its superb reproductions of more than 150 of Low's drawings, is an eloquent testimonial to the power of the voice of sanity.

Tom Baird, author of *Fourth-Rate Estate - An Anatomy of Fleet Street*, is like Low, a Labour sympathizer. He is also an honest socialist.

Hard though he is on the trivialization of Fleet Street, its decline from stimulating international coverage into parochial

sensationalism, he is prepared to blame trade unions and managements more or less equally.

Baird condemns "the deplorable disregard for basic journalistic ethics that has characterized the right-wing tabloid press over the past decade". But, echoing Low's antipathy to class war "rot", he is equally hard on Arthur Scargill for "relying on evasive rhetoric when frankness would have paid off". Nor does he have any time for the misuse of industrial power which amounts to "censorship by trade union walkout".

This is an unflattering but essentially truthful assessment of the present state of Fleet Street. Baird proposes a press charter, with various safeguards for editors and restrictions on owners, but he confesses ruefully: "It gives a socialist no pleasure to admit that market forces themselves are more likely to produce at least a partial answer."

Newspapers, by John Westmacott, is simply a guide to the British Library's comprehensive newspaper collection. Don't read the book, go to the library.

Rupert A. ...

Parrots, passion and hidden treasure

Flaubert's Parrot by Julian Barnes (Flecker, £2.95)
According to Mark by Penelope Lively (Penguin, £2.50)
September Castle by Simon Raven (Panther, £2.50)

Following the rapturous welcome given to *Flaubert's Parrot* when it was published in paperback last year, the Flecker edition steps into the field with an impressive phalanx of supporters and it would be a brave reviewer who decided to take on the massed ranks of, among others, Graham Greene ("delightful"), John Fowles ("a delight"), John Irving ("a gem") and Germaine Greer ("a tour de force").

Fortunately I find myself able to agree with them. Julian Barnes's book is endlessly fascinating and very funny. Whether it should be called a novel or not is a moot point: the facts of Flaubert's life are presented in a fictional framework, with the prejudices and obsessions of a fictional narrator, a retired doctor and amateur Flaubert scholar called Geoffrey Braithwaite, informing their choice and presentation.

Taking as his starting point the fact that two different museums claim to have on display the actual stuffed parrot that Flaubert kept on his desk while writing *Un Coeur Simple*, Braithwaite sets off in pursuit of the truth about the parrots, about Flaubert and about his dead wife (whom he loved despite her constant and indiscriminate adulteries) at the same time demonstrating the futility of all such attempts.

Braithwaite's approach to literary criticism and biography is idiosyncratic. He particularly favours bizarre lists (under such headings as "The Train-spotter's Guide to Flaubert") and gives three different and apparently contradictory chronologies for his life. He joins Flaubert in critic-baiting. If Dr Enid Starkie is so nit-picking as to complain that Flaubert makes Emma Bovary's eyes three different colours, then Dr Geoffrey Braithwaite (MD) will retaliate not only by pouring scorn on her arid critical acumen but also by drawing attention to the fact that the portrait of Flaubert in one of her books is in fact Flaubert's friend Louis Hulstet. As Flaubert puts it: "Critics! Eternal mediocrities living off genius. . . . Race of cockroaches!" The crowning irony will be the annotated school's version of *Flaubert's Parrot*.

According to Mark is a gently amusing tale concerning Mark Lamming, a middle-aged biographer who is researching the life of a dead author called Gilbert Strong. He visits Strong's house where the grand-

daughter, Carrie, now runs a garden centre and fails to love with her, even though he also still loves his rather thronsome wife.

Carrie has had little education and Mark uses the contrast between himself and the unlettered and inarticulate girl, a kind of "noble savage", as an opportunity to moan incessantly about the pernicious effect of too much literature and the danger of judging people by the books they have read. He sees his infatuation as the equivalent of an executive's coronary - people "in the book business get a bad attack of life".

The author has obviously found it difficult to imagine what it would be like to be so ill-educated and Carrie is not a successful creation. It is disturbing to learn that she is in fact 32 - her *naïveté* and inarticulacy, which might be charming in an 18-year-old, merely make her appear mentally retarded.

As well as being inconveniently in love, Mark is finding it impossible to discover the truth about Strong and he even begins to suspect that Strong actually sorted out through the material that a future biographer would find.

Simon Raven's *September Castle* is definitely not about the art of novel writing. His concerns are treasure hunting, possession by demons, cannibalism, auto-eroticism (and



Amusing: Penelope Lively

every other kind), murder and magic herbs. For those with a strong stomach it is an amusing enough yarn. The treasure that is being sought by a motley gang including a fat epicurean millionaire, an ageing important aristocrat and two very advanced 16-year-olds, is a jewelled casket from the dowry of a 13-century Greek princess. Personally I found I needed the strongest stomach for the incessant baby talk of the protagonists - "Bissikins", "Polly-wolly" - and the endless descriptions of pretentious gourmet meals.

Annabel Edwards

What the Butler saw

The Notebooks of Samuel Butler, new introduction by P. N. Furbank (Hogarth Press, £3.95)

Be warned that I am besotted with, in the sense of sorcery possessed by, Samuel Butler, the Victorian free and philosophical thinker.

Butler always carried a notebook, in which he jotted epigrams, anecdotes, and ideas for pieces. The *Notebooks*, rich writer's source-book, are now reissued to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Butler's birth.

Life and death preoccupy him like everything else, big subjects, often disposed of in little. Whether life is worth living "is a question for an embryo, not for a man".

Between the two he considers all things: gods, window-cleaners, the right way to eat grapes (or quoting Handel) to tune a harpsichord. Into every mind, if worth the name, thoughts flutter daily by the multitude, and flutter out again beyond recapture.

Butler takes them in flight, pinning them in his notebooks, sometimes for themselves, mostly for leaps into contemplation,

speculation, denunciation, the moralizing treatise, the forthright knock-down assertion about nightshirts, Wordsworth, the Song of Solomon and the book of Esther "I doubt if there is a publisher in London who would give a guinea for the pair", oysters, cant, drunkenness, "The Lost Chord" - which, if found, could never have made the great Amen", which would need two choruses.

Much on religion and animals. (It is useless "to say 'Hallelujah' to a cat".) On music, himself a composer: "To know whether you are enjoying a piece of music you must see whether you find yourself looking at the advertisement of Pear's soap at the end of the programme."

Much on painting, himself a painter, with something of his still in the National Gallery. One of his several self-portraits looks out from the book's cover with the unchallengeable gaze of a man who is right, knows it, and for those who do not agree has no thought worth turning on them.

The man who wrote *The*

knowing that Horner was a woman and had so much else to write but never fitted it in, that he had to leave notes of titles, subjects and plots unbroached. "The Art of Quarrelling", "The Third Class Excursion Train, or Steamboat, as the church of the future".

Read too much Butler, as I have been doing, and non-Butler begins to read like Butler, as when turning from Mr Miles Kingston to the leading articles. You could begin to write like Butler.

"There is much to be said for poor schooling in youth. What we might then have learned, in duty, and caught but the fringe of, in maturity breaks upon us in delight of unforced discovery."

That, by me not Butler, springs from having been put on to him by my English master, too tender an age for satire. His bait for my interest was that *Erewhon* spent "Nowhere" backwards. Impatient with a man who could not tell an anagram from an inversion, I failed to rise, lost interest, and have yet to read the book. I would not have confessed this



Moralizing: Samuel Butler

once, but I have read 400 pages of this one, and the real Butler gives me courage.

"I was nearly forty before I felt how stupid it was to pretend to know things that I did not know. . . . Not one of my school-masters taught me this."

So I now know, am for the time being, possessed by, Samuel Butler. In time it will pass. The clever devil will be cast out. But I must be careful still not to read *Erewhon*. It could bring him storming back.

Basil Boothroyd

Wit and style

Cavour by Denis Mack Smith (Methuen, £5.95)

This important book distills, into a single volume, 40 years' work and many publications by Mack Smith on the mastermind of Italian unification. It is a work of scholarship, wit and style, not least because it does not pretend that its hero was a saint, or that even heroic politics are not a shabby business.

a e cummings is edited by George James Farnage (Liveright, £5.95). Linotype and photocomposition are not quite right for the poems of e cummings, strange little bard so this typescript edition of his published and unpublished writings is faithful to the letter as well as the spirit of the originals poems to compete with elephants and El Greco

History in English Words by Owen Barfield, foreword by W. H. Auden (Faber, £5.95). This urbane classic of old-fashioned philology was pub-

lished in hardback in 1953. It gives a brief history of the peoples who have spoken the Aryan tongues, illustrated by those important English words derived from other languages, whose use and changes in meaning record and unlock the larger history. It is not rigorously scientific. What it is literary and learned *belles lettres* of the sort the English wordsmiths are particularly good at.

Emily Brontë, Her Life and Work by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford (Arenas, £3.95). Emily Brontë was the paradox of passion without consciousness. In this early Spark of lit. crit., Muriel Spark gives a biographical study of Brontë's brief and tragic life, and Derek Stanford gives a critical examination of her works. Of course you are better reading the primary books. *Withering Heights* and the poems. But this book may help you to enjoy them better by clearing away some of the cobwebs of myth that have built up over the years.

Philip Howard

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THOUSANDS FACE BLACK MOULD ATTACK.
AN UNSIGHTLY fungus commonly called black mould is affecting the lives of tens of thousands of people in every part of Britain. IN FACT SURVEYS INDICATE THAT BLACK MOULD HAS REACHED EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS.
Most at risk are those who have adopted modern methods for more comfortable living conditions. Unfortunately these improvements often help to create the conditions in which black mould thrives.
Symptoms are grey-black spots which eventually form together in ugly blotches. If the condition remains untreated the blotches can spread over large areas.
But there is no need for panic. Black mould is not some highly-contagious tropical disease but the result of condensation on walls and ceilings of your home. Ironically, the unpleasant problem has grown with the increasing demand for warmer homes. As draughts have been excluded, perfect breeding grounds for black mould have been created - wherever warm air is in contact with cold surfaces.
Bathrooms and kitchens are obviously the rooms most at risk - but the tell-tale spots are now tending to appear in many other parts of modern or modernised houses as well.
FORTUNATELY, THERE IS A SIMPLE, PERMANENT CURE.
For years, Silestone treatment has been the automatic choice for professional decorators and builders whenever they encounter black mould. Silestone has proved permanently effective everywhere from Royal Navy submarines to hospitals and brewery walls.
Now, recognising the nationwide extent of the black mould problem, Silestone is being made available to the public under the Biokill brand name.
Anyone with even the merest DIY ability can treat affected walls successfully and very easily. The treatment comes in 10-gram packets in a handy box and complete with full instructions. There's even a sponge for applying the first stage of this straightforward two-step treatment - cleaning the wall or ceiling with a sterilising solution called Dentolite, which is part of the kit supplied. All you do is wipe the Dentolite over the affected area to kill the mould.
Next, you simply apply a coat or two of the high-quality Biokill emulsion paint, which is also specially formulated to combat mould growth. So, in one treatment, you remove the mould and decorate the surface. Incidentally, the kit contains a very generous quantity of sterilising solution - enough to cover a huge area.
If you need more emulsion paint this is available under the other parts of the kit. The paint contained in the kit is white, but Biokill also offers three packs which, mixed with the white emulsion, provide the choice of a wide range of pastel shades.
A 5-year Biokill guarantee, something other treatments are unable to offer, underlines the remarkable value of this kit - and just £13.81 covers both the treatment and the paint as well.
Our Home & Dry leaflet, Colour Card and the name and address of your nearest stockist are all available free from the address below. For Architects and other professional users our fully illustrated book "Condensation & Mould Growth" is available free on request (please apply on company headed notepaper). Kits are available direct if there's no stockist in your area.
BIOKILL CHEMICALS LTD, FREEPOST, BRICK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, NEW ROAD, GILLINGHAM, DORSET. Telephone 01476 3121 (No money required). Trade enquiries welcome.

CHESS

Moscow's greatest game?

A fascinating description of a classic encounter in the recent world championship comes in *Manoeuvres in Moscow: Karpov-Kasparov II* by Raymond Keene and David Goodman (Batsford, £5.95).

Despite the speed with which the book was published, it is a well-considered analysis of a marvellous clash between two great players. I give the 16th game which must be a certainty for any anthology of beautiful games of this century.

White: Karpov; Black: Kasparov. Sicilian Defence, Game 16, October 15.

A valiant repetition of the gambit he had introduced in Game 12.

A facile move. White's best approach is the bold sacrifice: 11 B-QB4 B-N5 12 Q-Q4 P-QN4 13 N-B3xP.

Black's pieces now dominate the centre of the board.

Regrouping for the final assault.

White resigns. It is mate after 41 N-B1. Karpov 42 BxR QxR.

When FIDE gave Karpov the right to a return match if he lost the title, I was among those who criticized this retrograde decision. Let us not talk about rights and wrongs but hope that two great players will produce games worthy of their genius.

My sympathies and admiration are all with the wonderful new young champion. But let us not forget the valiant and powerful struggle put up by Anatoly Karpov. His resistance in this match more than redeemed the desperate attempts to retain his throne which he made during Kasparov's first challenge.

Harry Golombek



Shafts of light and dark shadows

Wakehurst Place (above) is Kew Gardens in the country, an annex of the famous Royal Botanic Garden where, in the clean, unpolluted atmosphere and better soil conditions of Sussex, conifers and broadleaf trees grow to bloated maturity on a site of glorious diversity.

An Elizabethan house next to an ornamental pond edged with evergreen shrubs is at the centre of a vast wooded estate. There you may enjoy the sunlight shafting through Westwood Valley, a deep fissure dressed in tall beech that shelters an underplanting of rhododendron.

Wakehurst Place, near Ardingly, Sussex. Open daily 10am-4pm.

making growth, pruning should be much lighter. The next year flowers should be reduced followed by hard pruning the subsequent year and so on.

I took some *bougainvillea* cuttings in June this year. What temperature do they require during the winter, and is it necessary to feed them?

Bougainvillea is a tender shrubby climber which likes hot summers and mild winters. It does not like heavy wet soils.

As growth shows signs of dying the plant should be allowed to dry off, though not completely. Keep the temperature to 45°F over the winter and maintain a fairly dry atmosphere. According to season the plant can be given higher temperatures as growth begins again about March, increasing watering and syringing as growth builds up.

Ashley Stephenson
Readers should write with queries to Ashley Stephenson, Saturday Evening, The Times, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1.

Michael Young

Wakehurst Place, near Ardingly, Sussex. Open daily 10am-4pm.

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BRIDGE

An affair of the heart

Horace Paradine, the mathematical bore, glowered at Eustace and Doris Waterflow chatted amiably about the problems of Christmas shopping. "Scrooge should have been canonized, or at least received an Earlom", Paradine said testily, noting with ill-disguised distaste that he had cut Eustace, the duffer of duffers, against Charles Grandace and Doris Waterflow. Grandace made a part-score of 60 on the first hand, and Paradine dealt the next.

Rubber Bridge North-South 60 Dealer East

W Eustace N Waterflow S Paradine G Grandace
10 2NT 30 30
44 50 No No
No

Three no trumps would have presented no problem, even to Doris Waterflow. Grandace took the ♠A, on which Paradine followed with the ♠Q, and played a trump. When Eustace showed out the prospect looked bleak. Grandace played a heart. Eustace badly wanted to take the ♠A, but all the books said it was a mistake. Better to concede the contract than incur another dose of Paradine's pear drops.

Even if the immediate crisis was over, Grandace still needed a large slice of luck. He took the marked finesse against East's ♠Q, and threw the remaining trumps. A spade to the King and losing spade finesse split doom.

Eustace, satisfied that the contract was defeated, played the ♠A. Grandace ruffed and cashed the two winning spades, before playing the ♠6.

Eustace had a premonition of disaster. If he played low and Paradine's remaining club was the ♠10, Paradine would be end-played. Eustace's face lit up as he reluctantly played the ♠Q, only to fall as he finessed the last ♠K to declarer's ♠10.

"That was disastrous," Charles said. "But don't know how you do it."

"It's quite simple," answered Paradine. "But first the remaining opponent (the Bridge King) plays a pit for himself by playing the ♠A, and then falls into imagining he is going to perform a crocodile coup."

"Perhaps Eustace would have found it easier," if Horace, thrown his useless club away the last spade? Grandace with an amuseur's whistle.

North-South game Dealer South

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North-South game Dealer South



Christmas Shows



LONDON

ALADDIN: Lana Zavarov, Peter Davison, George Sewell, Jilly Johnson, Sandra Dickinson, Edmund Hockridge, Bob Carolese.

WINDMILL THEATRE: The Broadway London SW19 (01-540 0362), Dec 20-Jan 25.

ALADDIN: Lorraine Chase, Derek Griffiths, Colin Baker, Diane Morgan.

BECK THEATRE: Grange Road, Hayes, Middlesex (01-561 8371), Dec 10-Jan 11.

BABES IN THE WOOD: Spike Milligan, Patrick Cargill, Ken Goodwin, Bill Pertwee, Janet Mahoney.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Louise Page's version of the fairy tale directed by Jules Wright, with Joely Richardson and Jack Klaff.

BLAST OFF TO BUTTON MOON: Playboard Puppets in a show based on the popular ITV children's series.

THE CARE BEARS LIVE: Soft toys, film stars and now stage characters.

WEMBLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE: (01-902 1234), Dec 28-30, two shows daily.

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY: Jeremy Raison's adaptation of the Roald Dahl tale comes to town when most Christmas shows are leaving.

CINDERELLA: Des O'Connor, Sarah Payne, Paul Nicholas, Dame Anna Neagle, John Judd, in probably the most lavish pantomime around.

CINDERELLA: Paul Henry, Jess Conrad, Brian Cant, Irene Handl, Tracie Bennett.

CIRCUS: Gerry Cottle brings animals back into the show and the show back to central London, with horses, an elephant, camels, cattle, a yak, a zebra, sealions and many human performers besides.

Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (01-267 2534), Dec 21-Jan 5.

DICK WHITTINGTON: Helen Shapiro, Nicholas Parsons, Pete Murray.

DRACULA OR OUT FOR THE COUNT: Typically unconventional Christmas entertainment. Tim 'Flavin' (dancing star of *On Your Toes* with Liz Whiting, Sylvester McCoy, Terence Longdon, Roger Sloman, Valerie Leon, Sylvester La Touzel, Simon Shepherd, in a musical by Charles McKee.

THE GINGERBREAD MAN: David Wood's children's musical, directed by the author.

GODSPELL: One-time Monty Python Jones in John-Michael Tebbel's musical based on the Gospel of St Mark. Matinees only.

HANSEL AND GRETEL: Vince Foxall and Colin Bell's adaptation of the Brothers Grimm tale, traditional, in the style of all the Christmas shows here.

THE GINGERBREAD MAN: David Wood's children's musical, directed by the author.

HOLIDAY ON ICE: Spectacular ice show arrives even later this year than last - any later and it would have been an Easter show.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: Rod Hull and Emu, Colleen Scott, Carl Wayne and Freddie Stevens, Anne Ziegler.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: Matthew Kelly, Vicky Llorish, in a David Cragan/Brian Protheroe show.

MEG AND MOG SHOW: Sarah Greene as Meg in the musical play by David Wood, based on the books by Helen Nicol and Jan Pienkowski.

THE MR MEN MUSICAL: Malcolm Smeaton's stage musical developed from the cartoon characters created by Roger Hargreaves.

PETER PAN: Musical based on J.M. Barrie, starring Bonnie Langford and Joss Ackland.

SOOTY GOES ON A PICNIC: Matthew Corbett brings Sooty, Sweep and Soo to London for their annual hunt.

STANLEY BAXTER: The Gingerbread Man.

Oh no they aren't! Oh yes they are: Rod Hull and Emu (left) will star in Jack and the Beanstalk in Bromley; Stanley Baxter in Aladdin in Edinburgh; and Danny La Rue (right) in Mother Goose in Birmingham.

We are into the Christmas cheer and jeer season - that weird, wonderful and peculiarly British form of theatre, the pantomime.

Here is a nationwide guide to the old favourites and newcomers



OUT OF TOWN

ABERDEEN: Dick Whittington: Eric Sykes has withdrawn through illness, but Russell Hunter, Duncan Goodhew, Fiona Kennedy and Jan Hunt continue.

ALADDIN: Robinson Crusoe: Local favourites the Houghton Weavers.

BIRMINGHAM: Mother Goose: Danny La Rue, Lionel Jeffries, Isla St Clair.

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MAN/SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS: David Wood's musical for children. Now until 14, is followed by the stage version of the MGM film musical, as seen in London earlier this year.

PETER PAN: straight stage production of the J.M. Barrie fantasy, complete with flying.

BIRMINGHAM: Mother Goose: Danny La Rue, Lionel Jeffries, Isla St Clair.

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time-honoured humour.

BRIGHTON: The Magic World of Aladdin: Christopher Biggins, Dora Bryan, illusionist Faust in a show described as traditional.

BRISTOL: Babes in the Wood: Cannon & Bell, Eve Graham.

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DUNDEE: Treasure Island: John Forgan.

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FRINGE FIRST AWARD: winner by Theatre Alba.

EXETER: The Railway Children: No fewer than three trains on stage are promised in this adaptation of the E. Nesbit story.

GLASGOW: Peter Pan - The Musical: Bonnie Langford and Joss Ackland in the show which opens in London before Christmas.

HANSEL & GRETEL: A new version by Myles Rudge, directed by Giles Havergal.

HASTINGS: Mother Goose: Fraser Hines, Lizzie Webb, Ted Mout.

HULL: Cinderella: The Kranksies. New (0482 20463).

IPSWICH: Oliver: Lionel Bart's musical version of the Dickens story.

LEEDS: Dick Whittington: Stu Francis, Martin Daniels, Suzanne Dando, Jackie Pello.

LEICESTER: The Wind in the Willows: Adaptation of the Kenneth Grahame story, with music by Carl Davis.

LIVERPOOL: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs: Stan Boardman, Denis Nolte, Ronnie Crier.

MANCHESTER: Babes in the Wood: Les Dawson, Ruth Madoc, John Nettles, the Roly Plys, John Noakes, Mark Curry.

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OLD MOTHER RELLY: Floral Pavilion (051-639 4360), Dec 21-Jan 18.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs: Dana, Mike Newman.

NORTHAMPTON: Goldilocks and the Three Bears: Ted Rogers, "Dusty Bin", Gareth Hunt, Tony Monopoly, Amanda Cairns.

NORWICH: Babes in the Wood: Graham Fletcher, Debbie McGee.

NOTTINGHAM: Aladdin: Jimmy Crichton, Barbara Windsor, Billy Dainty, Jack Hag.

OXFORD: Cinderella: Jim Davidson, Liz Fraser, Dianne Lea.

PERTH: Cinderella: Walter Carr, John Dean, Edith MacArthur, Ron Bain.

PLYMOUTH: Aladdin: Roy Hudd as Widow Twankey.

READING: Jack and the Beanstalk: Stu Francis, Dave Lee Travis, Suzanne Dando, first and last of whom are also in *Dick Whittington* in Leeds at the end of January.

STOKE ON TRENT: Dick Whittington: Wayne Sleep, Ken Platt, J. J. Stewart, Leslie Randall.

SUNDERLAND: Sleeping Beauty: Paul Shane, Don Estelle.

SWANSEA: Aladdin: Bernie Clifton, Ria Jones, Simon Oates.

TORBAY: Cinderella: Norman Vaughan, L. P. P. P.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Dick Whittington: Little and Large.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: This is the first time at Covent Garden, Sir Colin Davis conducts. Meanwhile, *La fanciulla del West* continues, with performances tonight and Tuesday at 7.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Jonathan Miller's new production of *Don Giovanni* has performances tonight, Thursday and Dec 14 at 7pm, with William Shimell in the title role.

FLUTE PANTO: A new production of Mozart's *Magical Flute*, which promises "vulgar slapstick comedy, tales of transformation and surreal eroticism".

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SCOTTISH OPERA - GO ROUND: This enterprising piano-accompanied group which takes opera to those parts other companies cannot reach, brings *Tootsie* to Inverurie Town Hall tonight; *Thurs* to High School on Tuesday; *Thurs* to High School on Tuesday; *Thurs* to High School on Tuesday.

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SCOTTISH OPERA - GO ROUND

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THE WEEK AHEAD



TELEVISION

FIRST ELEVEN: John Dankworth turns up in BBC's *Jazz Week*, recalling in words and music the influential Club Eleven, a group of young jazz musicians including himself and Ronnie Scott which was responsible for launching British bebop. Ten of the eleven are reunited after 37 years. BBC2, Monday, 7.45pm.



OPERA

GARDEN GIRL: Anne Sofie von Otter, the young Swedish soprano who has been winning high acclaim, makes her Covent Garden debut singing Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*. John Copley's production has Jonathan Summers in the title role. Royal Opera House (01-240 1066) from Monday.



GALLERIES

SKETCH PAD: Feliks Topolski has been chronicling the theatre in his own distinctive style for 50 years. His John Gielgud (above) is included in an exhibition of lightning sketches, portraits and banners in the Lyttelton Circle Foyer of the National Theatre (01-928 2033) from Thursday.



CONCERTS

ROYAL RATTLE: Simon Rattle, flying high in critical and popular esteem, takes the baton with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The main works are the Berg Violin Concerto, with Kyung Wha Chung, and Rachmaninov's Second Symphony. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 3191). Tuesday, 7.30pm.



RADIO

BLUE EYES: Frank Sinatra is 70 on Thursday, and Radio 2 celebrates by playing one of his classic numbers every hour throughout the day. Gloria Hunniford's show (2-3.30pm) has an interview with daughter Nancy, and Radio 4 tomorrow (7.30-8.30pm) presents a portrait by Clancy Sigal.



THEATRE

CHERRY RIFE: Mike Alfreds, founder of the touring fringe theatre group, Shared Experience, makes his National Theatre debut as translator and director of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. The cast includes Ian McKellen, Sheila Hancock and Eleanor Bron. Cottesloe (01-928 2251), opens Tuesday after previews.

THE TIMES CHOICE

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

AS YOU LIKE IT: Adrian Noble's RSC Stratford production comes to London with its original principals. Juliet Stevenson, Nicky Henson, Alan Rickman, Hilton McRae, Joseph O'Connor. Barbican (01-528 8795/638 8891). Previews from Thurs. Opens Dec 17. In repertoire.

MELONS: Bernard Pomerance (author of *The Elephant Man*) offers a meeting between an old Apache and a cavalry officer who fought him long before, in a melon patch in New Mexico in 1906. Alison Sutcliffe directs Ben Kingsley and Anton Lesser. The Pit, Barbican (01-528 8795/638 8891). From Wed.

OPENINGS



CHEKHOV'S WOMEN: Returning for Sundays only, eight performances in all, Vanessa Redgrave (above), Rachel Kempson, Frances de la Tour, Julia Swift and Peter Wright, directed by David Leveaux in a show given one preview at the Queens at the beginning of November. Lyric (01-437 3686/434 1050/1550). Sun at 4.30 and 7.30pm. Also Dec 15, 22, 9.

CUPBOARD MAN/WHITE ROSE: Playing as a double bill (alternating first and second) are two successful productions from the 1985 Edinburgh Festival. *Cupboard Man* is adapted from a short story by Ian McEwan; Julia Bardsley directs Phelim McDermott. Peter Arnott's play *White Rose* is about a pilot heroine of the defence of Stalingrad, 1942-3. Traverse Theatre production. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London N1 (01-559 4404). Previews today, Press night Mon. Until Dec 21.

GREEK: Fusion Theatre Company have been touring this production of Steven Berkoff's updated reworking of the Oedipus myth. Bridge Lane Theatre, Bridge Lane, London SW11 (01-228 8828). Opens Mon. Until Dec 21.

HARRY'S CHRISTMAS/THE TELL-TALE HEART: Steven Berkoff presents his own Christmas story (written in 1982 but not previously staged) in a double bill with an Edgar Allan Poe tale. Donmar Warehouse (01-240 8230). From Mon. Press night Thurs.

FILMS

OPENINGS

CAME A HOT FRIDAY (PG): Lively and folksy comedy from New Zealand about the adventures of two rural con men; with Peter Bland, Philip Gordon, Billy T. James, directed by Ian Mune. From Fri at the Classic Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), Classic Chelsea (01-352 5056), Odeon Kensington (01-502 6644).

SELECTED

LOVE FOR LOVE: Peter Wood's revival of Congreve has Tim Curry, Michael Bryant, Basil Henson and Sara Kestelman. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). In repertoire.

MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION: Joan Plowright as the warm-hearted madam and Jessica Turner as her rebellious daughter lead in Anthony Page's production. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). In repertoire.

OPIMUM EATER: Andrew Dalmeida's brilliant day-in-the-life of Thomas de Quincey brings excellent performances from Neil Cunningham as the faded hack and Stewart Preston as his sly, half-mad servant. Gate Theatre Club, 11 Pembridge Road, London W11 (01-229 0706).

VASSA: Janet Suzman as the embattled heroine of Gorky's political masterpiece. Greenwich (01-558 7755).

OUT OF TOWN

SCARBOROUGH: Tons of Money: Alan Ayckbourn considers this classic Akkhyeh farce by Will Evans and Valentine "one of the funniest farces ever written". Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round (0723 370541). Preview Wed matinee. Opens Wed evening.

SHEFFIELD: Witchcraft: Bryony Lavery's study of women's persecution under the pretext of witch-hunting through the ages. Crucible Studio (0742 78922). Opens Tues. Until Dec 14.

PHOTOGRAPHY

HIGH DAYS AND HOLIDAYS OF THE VICTORIAN ERA: The Victorian, Francis Frith who photographed thousands of towns and cities in Britain as well as turning his camera on tradesmen at work and on holiday. Exhibition Hall, Paradise Place Arts Complex, Birmingham. (021 235 3498).

STARS OF THE BRITISH SCREEN: Glamorous studio portraits of the 1930s and 1940s to today's glittering images of pop stars. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1555).

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SELECTED

WHEN FATHER WAS AWAY ON BUSINESS (15): Enik Kusztics's delightful ironic portrait of post-war life in Yugoslavia, seen through the eyes of a six-year-old boy. Cannon Premiere (01-437 2096), ICA Cinema (01-930 3647).

AGONY (PG): Elem Klimov's powerful portrait of pre-revolution Russia, with a vivid characterization of Rasputin from Alexei Petrenko and ingeniously used archive footage. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443), Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742).

COLONEL REDL (15): Impressive epic drama from the director of *Mephisto*, Istvan Szabo, with Klaus Maria Brandauer (above), firing on all cylinders as the bisexual military officer of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Canon Premiere (01-437 2096), Minerva (01-235 4225).

LETTER TO BREZHNEV (15): A Liverpool girl falls for a visiting Russian sailor. The most vibrant British film for some time, touching, sharp-eyed, and very funny. With Alexandra Pigg, Peter Firth. Classic Royal (01-930 5915). Screen on the Green (01-228 3520).

PRIZZI'S HONOUR (18): A tangled tale of two hired killers who fall in love (Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner); directed by John Huston. Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2771).

A ZED AND TWO NOUGHTS (18): Peter Greenaway's massively bizarre story of love, decay and evolution among zoo employees and inhabitants with Frances Barber (above). Elegant, disturbing, and ultimately infuriating. Lumiere (01-838 0691).

LEGEND (PG): Ridley Scott's latest film hitches a wagon-load of special effects to a slender tale of

good and evil among young lovers, elves, unicorns and a giant with horns and cloven feet (Tim Curry). Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252).

GALLERIES

OPENINGS

RECONSTRUCTIONS: From surrealism through new realism, to abstraction and back. A survey of post-war art and culture in Japan. Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0865 727733). From tomorrow.

ANDY GOLDSWORTHY: Sculpture made from leaves, branches, snow and mud - namely anything handy on Hampstead Heath, where the artist will be working on site. Hampstead Heath, London NW3. Information from the Artangel Trust (01-351 9164). From Mon.

EDWARD ARDIZZONE: Etchings and lithographs of people and places by the well-loved English illustrator who died in 1979. Mayor Gallery, 22a Cork Street, London W1 (01-734 3558). From Tues.

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION: Picture bazaar of watercolours, drawings and prints by members of the Royal Society of Painters in Water-Colours, and Painter-Etchers and Engravers. Bankside Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, London SE1 (01-928 7521). From Tues.

4TH SMITH BIENNIAL: Demonstration of the energetic and powerful art currently coming out of Scotland. Includes work by Adrian Wiszniewski, Ian McCulloch and Lys Hansen. Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041 332 7521). From today.

ADOLF LOOS: First major show for 50 years documenting the work of the Viennese architect who campaigned against ornament in his quest for true form. ICA Gallery, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647). From Fri.

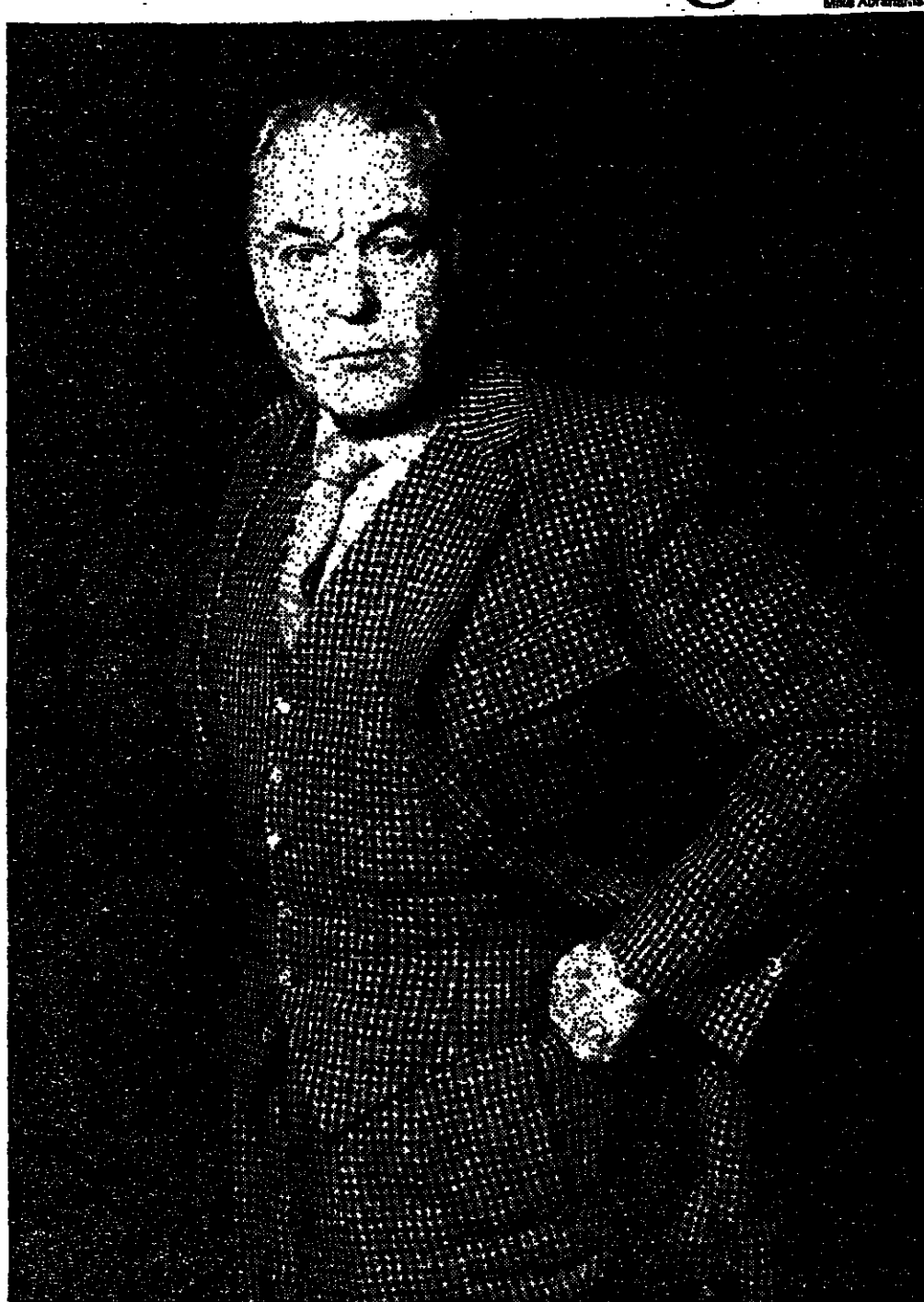
SELECTION '85: Work by artists featured in this year's Royal Academy summer exhibition. Peter Hedley Gallery, 6 South Street, Wareham, Dorset (09295 51777). From tomorrow.

SELECTED

TOKI: TRADITION IN JAPAN TODAY: The Barbican Centre transformed into a delicate world of tea ceremonies and apple-blossoms. Attractions include *Nihonga*, an exhibition of contemporary paintings mainly with traditional materials and subjects, and *Karakuri Ningyo* - ancient mechanical puppets which move as if by magic. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 4141).

MAJOR MASTERPIECES: Localist owners by the great such as Gainsborough, Constable and Turner. Oscar and Peter Johnson, Lowndes Lodge Gallery, 27 Lowndes Street, London SW1 (01-493 6420).

Revealing secrets of an old stager



Donald Sinden tells Catherine Bennett how his dream to play the *Scarlet*

Pimpernel came true

Situated comfortably in the royal retiring room of Her Majesty's Theatre, Donald Sinden knits his brows, to indicate enquiry, and lowers his voice. "I'm asking you not to say that I'm playing the *Scarlet Pimpernel*," he says.

With large posters outside indicating that this was the very part he would be taking, and the inevitable publicity which a long run at Chichester and national tour have already attracted, it is a little late now to stop the rumours. But Sinden insists that mystery for those in the audience who expect to see him in anything other than the title role.

"We've found an entirely new generation - 25 and under, shall we say - who don't know the story, so it's become a whodunnit, a guessing game. Everyone's trying to find the *Scarlet Pimpernel* and - don't tell anybody - it turns out to be me!" Sinden sounds prodigiously pleased that this should be the case - and with good reason. His wife, Diana, has spent the last 25 years begging him to play Sir Percy Blakeney. Her early exhortations came during a period which he recalls with distaste as "the time of the avant-garde, the kitchen sink drama - call it what you will. This type of romantic drama was right out. One had to wait."

After 44 years in the business, Sinden says he still loves it. "I adore going on night after night." Some years ago, the chance reading of an essay by Sir Francis Bacon prompted him to try to show his gratitude. "He said 'Every man is a debtor to his profession'. I thought that was perfectly true. I want to give something back."

So far, he has given back much of his time serving as a member of the Arts Council, as President of the Royal General Theatrical Fund and Federation of Playgoers' Societies. "I'm a trustee of the Garrick Club - that's a purely personal one, and I'm on the appeals committees of quite a lot of churches. I've missed out some." Sinden frowns modestly. "Who's *Rio* has quite a good list."

This burden of bureaucratic responsibility was, perhaps, the inspiration for his starring role in television's *Splitting Image* puppet show in which his loathsome lookalike is often govtelling, before the Queen,

begging for a knighthood. "When have I ever said or implied I would like one?" demands Sinden.

It is, he says, a boring subject, although he feels for his fellow performers. "The poor Queen and the Royal Family, they can't answer. That's what I find the tragedy. You can't ask the Queen what she thinks."

For the past six years, while his presidencies have accumulated, he has been notably absent from what he calls "heavyweight" drama. The reasons, he says, are "a bit academic, do you mind?" Reassured, he quotes, at length, a passage from the second volume of his autobiography, which holds that actors have been divided into classical, modern, and film, and concludes that this, for Sinden, is a bad thing.

"I thought, right, I'll go for as many different authors as I can. I did my first Ibsen in 1975. I've still never done an Oscar Wilde, oddly enough. I've never done a Bernard Shaw, and I've never done a Pinter." The last omission is not altogether surprising - Sinden once called *The Caretaker* "a load of rubbish" in the presence of the author. The part of Sir Percy Blakeney is seen by some as the perfect vehicle for Sinden's winningly collusive relationship with his audiences, but he insists that he takes it no less seriously than, say, Malvolio, and has forbidden himself any indulgence in stage-stealing tricks. "I fully acknowledge that I have a reputation for being idiosyncratic. But if I have an ambition at all, it is not to be idiosyncratic." He instances his surreptitious attempts to conceal his true voice, when Sir Percy dresses up as an old woman. "Apparently," he says, clomping at the word as though he had a large-stuffed prune lodged in the back of his throat. "I am recognized more vocally than any other way. Were you aware of that?"

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL: Previews at Her Majesty's, Haymarket (01-930 4026/6606) today, Mon. Tues. Opens Wed. Donald Sinden stars with Charles Kay and Joanna MacCallum.

ARTS DIARY

All's not Wells

Sparks are likely to fly at next week's meeting between Sadler's Wells director Stephen Remington and the Arts Minister, Richard Luce. Remington is still recovering from the blow of discovering that his £267,000 grant from the GLC will not be replaced when the council is abolished next year. He wants that Sadler's Wells could be closed permanently and puts the responsibility squarely on the shoulders of Lord Gowrie and Luce, the two most recent ministers. "We've had correspondence with both of them and were led to believe that we would definitely not suffer," he says. Not so, says Luce's office - no minister could give an undertaking to keep the 300-year-old company afloat. It was the responsibility of the Arts Council. But Remington is adamant. "If that was the decision they could have warned us. This way it is silly and embarrassing and ultimately damaging."

Sorry story

Stage producer Cameron Mackintosh is discussing a film of *Les Misérables*. The song-and-dance interpretation of Victor Hugo's book reopened this week in the West End after moving from the Barbican. The notion of a celluloid version sounds fine - but it is hardly new. The British Film Institute lists 21 different productions of the classic tragedy.

Members of Equity, the actors' union, are one step nearer imposing a total ban on performing in South Africa. A four-point referendum has been drawn up asking members whether they wish the union to continue performances there. The poll takes place early next year.

Soldiering on

Members of the aristocracy could become comedy heroes in the United States, thanks to the new television series *Treasure Houses of Britain*, which is about to be screened there. The programmes include Lord Cholmondeley describing how he manoeuvred his own personal Battle of Waterloo, employing 20,000 tin soldiers. "I had to suspend myself over the models," says our latter-day Wellington.

Claus secret

With Christmas almost upon us and the depressing thought that the best the cinema can offer is Dudley Moore's ghastly romp *Santa Claus*, it is gratifying to know that something better is lurking in Lapland. Work is



about to begin on an animated film of I. R. R. Tolkien's superb children's book, *The Father Christmas Letters*. In the coming years it could do a lot to repair some of the damage done by the stuffed reindeer and other leanings of Ilya Selkirk's production.

Irish joke

Melvyn Bragg and his fellow judges were much taken by a typical Irish comedy, *The Alchemist*, as they waded through the entries to the Mobil Playwriting awards, presented at Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre yesterday. They awarded the anonymously submitted piece a special £1,000 prize. The mystery author turned out to be Herbert Finn, a 73-year-old Californian who has never set foot in Ireland and has no Irish connections. Nor has he written a play before, though he once wrote scripts for Bob Hope and worked alongside the young Neil Simon, whom he advised: "Get out of writing and into something that'll make you a decent living."

Christopher Wilson

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BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: A revival of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* replaces *Otello* for January, with cast including Renato Bruson, Iori Kanawa, Placido Domingo and Robert Lloyd. Performances from Jan 14, with Edward Downes conducting. Also booking open for *Turandot*, starting in January. Royal Opera House, 49 Fleet Street, London WC2 (01-240 1089).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: General public booking from this week for Jan/Feb, with new productions of Rossini's *Moses*, and first ENO performances of Jonathan Miller's *The Magic Flute*, originally staged by Scottish Opera. Also Miller's *Don Giovanni*, plus Julius Caesar, *The Maccabees* of Nuremberg and *La Bohème*. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

HALLÉ CONCERTS: Booking opens this week for January, with a series of five recitals, including Brahms memorial concert (Jan 23) with Mark Kaplan, Erich Gruenberg and Rudolf Buchbinder among the soloists. Hallé Booking Office, 30 Cross Street, Manchester (061 834 1712).

AC/DC IN CONCERT: Booking opens for personal callers and postal applications for concert on Jan 16. Tickets from £7.30. AC/DC Wembley, PO Box 2, London W6. Or Wembley box office (01-902 1239).

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES: London premiere of Broadway smash musical opens in May, with George Hearn and Denis O'Dell. Based on play by Jean Poiret, with music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, of *Hello*.

LAST CHANCE

CELEBRATING 1685: Last in series of concerts of keyboard music celebrating the tercentenary of Bach, Handel and Scarlatti, with Trevor Pinnock (director/organ). Wed at 5.55pm. Tickets £5.50. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191. Credit cards 01-928 8800).

CECIL BEATON: Hugo Vickers, Beaton's biographer, will give a lecture with slides. Tickets £2.75, including wine. Mon 6pm. Millbank Tower Cinema, London SW1. Details: NACF, 20 John Islip Street, London SW1 (01-821 0404).

PRE-RAPHAELITE WOMEN: Lizzie Siddall, Jane Morris and Fanny Cornforth feature. Finishes tomorrow. Birmingham Museum of Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham (021 235 2834).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Photography: Michael Young; Films: Geoff Brown; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse

THE ARTS

Radio
Equation
of poverty

How prompt of Radio 4 to respond instantly to the Jasmine Beckford affair and almost instantly to the Archbishop of Canterbury's report, "Faith in the City" which was the subject of a Soundings Special (Tuesday, producer David Coombs). The latter made a sombre 45 minutes listening, perhaps less for what it had to tell us of the plight of the inner cities than for the impressions it gave of some of the parties who contributed.

As for the plight, we have heard and seen and read a very great deal about it and if all that has not already made the situation plain, then nothing ever will. The question is how to improve it and the Archbishop's Commission answers that improvement needs more money, not less. They may or may not be right, but it is not refutation of that recommendation to say, as Norman Tebbit did, that of course we have more money, but it has been tried before and did not work. What that tells us is that when money was last made available on a large scale, people did not know how to apply it - a point incidentally that our current Reith Lecturer, David Henderson, has been making with considerable trenchancy in respect of government funding in general.

So perhaps Mr Tebbit is right after all but the point is academic. As someone pointed out, all that we were told of the Government's allocation of funds to relieve want and stimulate revival does not nearly add up to what it has withdrawn from rate support. This made the Tebbit response seem to put it no worse, more spirited and the same speaker's dismissal of the report as mere Labour policy of the 1940s, 50s and 60s reinforced the impression.

There was dismissal too in the judgement by Dr Digby Anderson, director of the Social Affairs Unit, that the report showed Marxist leanings. He pointed to the use of words like "solidarity" and "alienation" and the equation of poverty with helplessness. Yet the use of certain terms does not necessarily imply Marxist sympathies, while it is undoubtedly true that to be poor is to be, if not absolutely helpless, then at least crippled, cabined and confined.

Behind much of this criticism there lurks, as has already been expressed, a feeling that such matters are no business of the Church (who should leave them to those who understand) which should get on with the job of curing souls - the point was somewhat loftily argued in, for example, Radio 3's *The Elect* and the *Elect* (November 28; producer Michael Stevenson).

But apart from the very doubtful implication that our rulers really do understand such matters (again Dr Henderson refers), the objection does not seem to recognize that there is no clear distinction between caring for someone spiritually and seeing to his physical well-being. In fact you might say that a Church which is evidently making such a poor fist of the first, had better attend to the second. The same objection also, ignores what certainly is the business of the church and is also a potent factor in our predicament: the remorseless influence of greed. Suppose more money would help and could be wisely spent, would it be willingly forthcoming from taxpayers? Not likely, for we would rather have it for ourselves and any government must chafe at the thought of its other reasons for not extracting it. Similarly it is the job of any church to point that out. Oddly enough, I don't believe that anybody in this *Soundings* Special actually did.

I listened to Michael Mason and Michael Bright's gargantuan psychomystical extravaganza, *Sunkin Gold* (Monday, Radio 4) with mixed feelings. On the one hand I was delighted to hear radio displaying its considerable technical resources in an effort to evoke or suggest what is outside or on the fringes of human experience. Here we had a feast, but as Derek (Food Programme) Cooper would be quick to recognize, it is possible to have a feast, a mass of ingredients, selected, mixed and balanced with the greatest skill, but to end up with rather little nourishment. That happened here.

David Wade



Long Distance Form: 40 Minutes, whose opening title (left), is influenced by Man Ray

A newspaper would be thought eccentric at best if it began a weekly feature called "400 words": any writer, any subject, any style with the single restriction that each piece must not overstretch the given length. In television terms, 40 Minutes seems to be just that: a disparate list of subjects linked only by the point at which the clock stopped. Radio Times offers a subtitle - "A series of films about the way we live now" - which makes the net no less extensive but can its guiding logic be simply horological?

It is not - 40 Minutes should be considered a series rather than as individual films, because of the development in documentary-making which it represents. For years, television produced one-off documentaries. ITV still transmits one such programme on most Tuesday nights of the year but, at the BBC, the one-off doc died at the turn of this decade.

In 1981, it was decided that one-off must be coralled into series. 40 Minutes, first edited by Roger Mills and now by Edward Mirzoeff, was the first attempt. Filling 26 Thursdays per year, it reached its 117th

Keeping up with time

edition this week with Lucinda Lambton in *Animal Crackers*, a film about folkies built by animal-lovers for their furry or feathered friends.

Edward Mirzoeff believes that the strength of 40 Minutes is its ability and willingness to present, from week to week, "a wholly different subject treated in a wholly different way". As editor, he tries "not to impose uniformity, though I personally like strong human stories. I think 40 Minutes should amuse, inform, entertain. They're films about Now, not the past, and we leave knee-jerk reaction films on the issues of the day to other people."

The point about "uniformity of style" is the vital one: the last series slipped into a trough, but under Mirzoeff, it is now climbing back. It is true that the BBC's various documentary strands seem interchangeable, but Edward Mirzoeff, the first attempt, filling 26 Thursdays per year, it reached its 117th

mainstay of 40 Minutes, *Real Lives* (another furiously all-purpose title) and Desmond Wilcox's *The Visit*.

The critic's guess for a rainy day is to guess why, for example, a film about a Belfast couple seeking a miraculous cure in Lourdes fits 40 Minutes while being a visit and, presumably, about real lives (whatever that, in BBC documentary terms, means).

And yet it may be a strength that what "40 Minutes film" is, is now less clear. Mirzoeff's predecessor, Roger Mills, was a man chasing a goal. He apparently believed in "the Alpha film" - a documentary project so pure that it told its story without a word of commentary or the intervention of an on-screen presenter.

Under Mirzoeff, in the nine films transmitted in the present series, there is a pleasingly greater variety of styles. Lucinda Lambton can be accommodated alongside an

imagistic film about growing up in Milton Keynes. John Pimm's dry-mouthed commentary and idiosyncratic wit helped to make *Fifty Years On*, a film about Golden Wedding, which made large points through small talk, one of the best films of the year.

Another tradition which the series keeps alive is the neutral documentary on a hot-potato topic: Jeremy Bennett's *Schoolgirl Mum*, falling amid the Gillick recommendations, came without preaching or sneering to let its subjects speak. Harry Weisbloom's *Searching for a Miracle*, another film which only showed, was so exact in its neutrality as to provide satisfaction for both the Lourdes Tourist Board and the Reverend Ian Paisley, had they shone to see their line on the shrine re-inforced.

On the debit side, it must be said that 26 films a year is almost certainly too many. Stretch-marks are the curse of television in the 1980s, as ideas

are squeezed, doubling their natural life. When Man Ray seriously got excited, he put on a second film, to be shown in the 40 Minutes slot after Christmas, about a woman seeking a cure for infertility.

There is, in too many of the films, a sense of trudging water, the dark side of 40 Minutes is a product which might be called the "soft-documentary". It does not want to do anything, or say anything; its subject is uninteresting, it merely wants to record certain moments of existence. Ted Cusby's *In Between Days*, which began the present series, followed four teenagers in Milton Keynes through aspects of an adolescence more Angela Brazil than J. D. Salinger. His film found too much empathy with the lethargy of its subjects, as both camera and adolescents wait for something to happen.

40 Minutes maintains a general level of excellence and is welcome as a hostel for the homeless documentary-maker. But it must be careful: the one-off documentary has died before.

Mark Lawson

Opera
Rossini turned into
a mausoleum pieceLe Siège de Corinthe
Paris Opera

The criticism most likely to be levelled at Rossini's *Le Siège de Corinthe*, back on the Paris stage after an absence of more than 150 years, is that it is less impressive than *Mohab*, seen a couple of years ago at the Opéra. And the charge is a just one. *Siège* was Rossini's first Paris commission after *Le Viaggio a Reims* (marvellously revived at La Scala earlier in the autumn) and it shows him stretching towards the grand Parisian manner rather than reaching it in one stride.

Rossini had been given an imposing title: Premier Compositeur du Roi et Inspecteur Général du Chant en France. He was, though, still expected to produce operas. Ever mindful of what was already in the bank elsewhere in Europe, Rossini turned to the *Maometto II* he composed for Naples in 1820 (the Philips recording recently issued is highly recommended), and reworked it for Paris. In doing so he showed a characteristic flair for knowing just what would tempt the public's taste buds.

The 1470 struggle of the Venetians against the Turks at Negroponte (present day Euboea) was moved back a few years as well as a 100 south west to the struggle of the Greeks against the same Turks in Corinth. At the time of the *Siège* (1826) France was all in favour of the Greek cause against the Infidel. Had not Lord Byron died only a couple of years earlier at Missolonghi?

Rossini sliced *Maometto's* two acts into three, thereby losing a little of the grandeur of the Naples opera. He added a ballet, perfunctorily staged in

Pier Luigi Pizzi's borrowed Paris production. With the help of his French librettists he invented a new character Hieros (sung with the impressive vigour by the French bass, Jean-Philippe Courlis); he may be no more than the guardian of the Corinthian graves, but he tells the Greek people to look forward to the day when they will cast off the Turkish yoke. This was the popular patriotism later to stand Verdi in such good stead.

Otherwise the story remains the old familiar one of the rival tugs of love and the fatherland: Pamira, daughter of the Governor of Corinth, finds out that Mahomet, the Turk knocking now at the city gates, is the very man to whom she gave her heart if not her body in the streets of Athens some years earlier.

Massimo Bogianckino began his tenure as general administrator at the Opéra with that fine *Mohab*. There is no pretending that the present production, taken from his previous house in Florence, is on that level of invention: Pier Luigi Pizzi presents *Siège* as a museum, if not a mausoleum piece, with carved golden pillars interspersed with pieces of classical statuary. Black backdrops part to let in invading Turks or, at the end, show the walls of the Corinth catacombs crumble unconvincingly to reveal the city in flames.

Fortunately the singing has considerably more dramatic force than the staging, which too often falls back on old tricks such as defining the warring forces by football team colours - the reds (Turks) versus the blues (Greeks). Katia Ricciarelli is the Pamira, the voice now back in full Rossinian flow, as noted when she appeared in the Scala *Viaggio*.

Trips from Paris to Italy for the Zeffirelli film of *Otello* have not taken their toll. The old weight has returned to the timbre, plus the easy control which allows Ricciarelli to ride the ensemble and keep the delicate line of the last act *privé*. Compare Ricciarelli's performance with that of Beverly Sills in the ten year old recording of the opera, which EMI have perhaps unwisely reissued in Paris, and the difference between style and mere display is abundantly clear.

France has been looking for years for a new mezzo of class and may well have found one in Martine Dupuy, a slim, curly haired Neoclassic. The Greek officer who could have turned Pamira's head had not Mahomet been there first. The freshness and attack she brings to this travesty role suggests a list of future contracts. Praise too for one of Peter Brook's Carmens, Eva Saurava, as Ismene.

The men made a weaker impression. If *Siège* is no *Mohab*, then Ferruccio Furlanetto is no Samuel Ramey - at least not yet. There is too much of the baritone in Furlanetto's voice to make him sufficiently imposing as Mahomet, particularly for those with the recording of *Maometto II* fresh in mind. In contrast, Curtis Rayam's tones were too thick for the sole tenor role of the Governor of Corinth. Arnold Ostman conducted scrupulously without revealing himself as a natural Rossinian or indeed projecting any great personality through the orchestra. Rossini has been the flavour of this operatic year: *Le Siège de Corinthe* adds modestly to it. Final performances tonight and December 10.

John Higgins



The ladies carry the day in Corinth: Katia Ricciarelli (left) with Martine Dupuy

The Cabinet of Dr
Caligari/The
Loneliness of the
Long-distance
Runner
Man in the Moon

Germany's cinematic melodramas of the early decades of the century, generally known as "Expressionist", brought one thread of the silent film to a knot of perfection: it is a brave man who attempts to unravel and retie it in another medium. Andrew Winter's adaptation of *Caligari* gives a faithful reading of Robert Wiene's 1910 film with a five-strong company taking on all the roles, most of which depend on exaggerated and often balletic mime. The dialogue, unfortunately, is frankly lousy and possibly redundant: since the flickering shadow of the screen version

weighs so heavily on the enterprise, and since the play-ers' delivery suggests at least an element of hamming, it may well have been a better idea to go the whole hog and present the essential speeches on printed placards.

Peter Changer's mad psychiatrist is a nice essay in prowling malevolence, while Jonathan Kerman as Cesare, the rather somnambulist who carries out Caligari's murderous intentions, by remote control, makes an extraordinarily supple stick insect. The fact that these two: double as the village policeman no doubt serves to augment the mood of paranoid claustrophobia, but the sum effect of Mr Winter's production is mechanical and monotonous. The soundtrack by Bill Nelson, formerly of Be-Bop Deluxe, is madly irritating, particularly the electronic-cello music for the fairground sequences.

Concerts

the slight interpretative distance he kept did the work no harm at all, and of course his sound was glorious.

By the time the strings were again left alone to play the *Serenade*, Op. 20, Sinopoli's touch had acquired, dare one say, an almost English gentility, though still he was careful to keep the part writing clear. But the *Enigma Variations* suited him particularly well, partly because of their heavy reliance on the gesture of the movement. Yet how strange, how gratifying, to hear this conductor revel so adroitly in the timeless wonder of "Mimrod", the playfulness of "GRS", the brusqueness of "WMB".

Stephen Pettitt

L S/Lutoslawski
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Christmas carols in modern-day Britain are things that shopping centres broadcast to accompany the merry tinkling of cash registers. In Poland they are inextricably bound to a deeply-felt religious faith.

That is the essential, perhaps the only, background one needs to know to appreciate Witold Lutoslawski's seasonal gift to Britain, *Seventeen Polish Christmas Carols*. The new score is certainly unlike anything to have come from the Polish master's pen for three decades or more, and indeed stems from some voice-and-piano arrangements which he wrote in 1946.

It is lush in harmony, exquisitely scored for chamber orchestra, and completely approachable. The traditional melodies, unaltered by Lutoslawski, are sung by a solo soprano or a unison women's chorus (Marie Slorach and the London Sinfonietta Chorus, who all seemed to relish those terrifying conjunctions of consonants); the score's magic, and its subtlety, lies with the instruments.

Richard Morrison

Last night's view

It takes five years for a living legend to become an immortal myth - if the posthumous career of John Lennon is a fair example. John Lennon: A Journey in The Life (BBC1), the widely publicised biography, is only one of the signs of this metamorphosis.

Perhaps we should be grateful that this decent piece of work, devoted principally to Lennon's spiritual evolution, has appeared so early. It was attractively made, with witty use of animation and the participation of well respected musicians like Paul Jones and Ray Orbison.

Its credentials were good if not impeccable; Yoko Ono was thanked for her help and the sources from which Lennon was quoted are on the whole most reliable. The selection of quotations was thoughtful, and the performance of Bernard Hill as the adult Lennon was impressive.

There was only one cliché - the Yellow Brick Road drawn on the screen to mark Lennon's path through life. There were some major omissions; Paul

McCartney was barely mentioned, Lennon's first marriage and his older son Julian were ignored and the programme made no reference to drugs.

This was a sincere and professional piece of work - why then should it have inspired unease? Lennon himself likened the process of being famous to the challenge game of Chinese Whispers, where mere repetitions ensure distortion.

When someone asked him why the Beatles would not play another charity concert, he asked if the Beatles had not given enough - they had given themselves for ten years.

In his lifetime Lennon resisted petrification by public interest, saying that Elvis Presley had really died when he left his identity in the army, and vowing that he himself would never be 40 years old and sing his own golden hits in Las Vegas. To accord John Lennon this niche in modern consensus morality may have been well meant, but it still seemed like an affront to his spirit.

Celia Brayfield

Theatre

The waking nightmare of free will is also, parenthetically, what exercises Colin Smith, the hero of Alan Sillitoe's *Lolli-ness*, adapted here by John Yorke and Richard Stockwell. Why has he turned out such a very bad lad? His father's messy death? Yob genes? His environment? This first stage version of the short story and film has been updated (references to videos and Glen Hoddle, class-confrontation as a "war situation"), although the programme's promise of "a new

and glaring relevance" to today's blatantly-escaped *Lolli-ness*. Marc Jobst gives an energetic performance of all the characters, the most successful being the Borsari governor whom Smith betrays in the climactic cross-country race, but Mr Yorke's production gives the audience far too much work to do in following the story or elaborate and enviously satisfying revenge.

Martin Cropper

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THE TIMES
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No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
1	Shell	11.75	11.50	11	11.75	11.50	21	11.75	11.50
2	Whitbread	11.75	11.50	12	11.75	11.50	22	11.75	11.50
3	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	13	11.75	11.50	23	11.75	11.50
4	Victory	11.75	11.50	14	11.75	11.50	24	11.75	11.50
5	Satellite	11.75	11.50	15	11.75	11.50	25	11.75	11.50
6	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50	16	11.75	11.50	26	11.75	11.50
7	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	17	11.75	11.50	27	11.75	11.50
8	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50	18	11.75	11.50	28	11.75	11.50
9	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	19	11.75	11.50	29	11.75	11.50
10	Yarrow	11.75	11.50	20	11.75	11.50	30	11.75	11.50

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

ELECTRICALS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

BUILDING AND ROADS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

FINANCE AND LAND

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

CINEMAS AND TV

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

DRAPERY AND STORES

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

INDUSTRIALS E-K

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

INDUSTRIALS L-R

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

OIL

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
11.75	11.50	Shell	11.75	11.50	Whitbread	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Yaxley	11.75	11.50	Victory	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Satellite	11.75	11.50	Spears (JW)	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Stewart & Parn	11.75	11.50	Spears & Jackson	11.75	11.50
11.75	11.50	Spears-Sano	11.75	11.50	Yarrow	11.75	11.50

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Allied peers through the fog brightly

The decision to refer Elders' £1.8 billion bid for Allied-Lyons to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission does nothing to lift the fog through which the City tries to divine some sort of official policy on takeovers. That the matter reached the Cabinet room is in itself indication of the lack of definitive rules on what should be subjected to the scrutiny of a Monopolies investigation. In this case, Lord Britton, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, says that he is referring the bid because "the financing of the proposed acquisition raises issues which deserve investigation by the commission."

While the Elders camp has gone into a huddle, proclaiming hurt and indignation at the decision, it cannot be entirely surprised. The way in which it mounted its bid was almost certain to arouse feelings of discomfort in those used to less inventive methods of adventuring. First there was to be a consortium used to less inventive methods of adventuring. First there was to be a consortium used to less inventive methods of adventuring. First there was to be a consortium used to less inventive methods of adventuring.

We must now wait perhaps six months to find out whether such deals are to receive the Government's seal of approval. A Monopolies Commission investigation on this scale is unlikely to be concluded in less than the officially allotted time. Will Elders stay the course? As Allied lobbied hard for a reference the Australian company maintained that it would be undeterred by a reference. Despite yesterday's official line that the company and its bankers, Hill Samuel, were reviewing the situation, Elders' chairman John Elliott is not a man to retire after one round. He has bought his 6 per cent holding in Allied at an average price of 203p and even after yesterday's slip to 273p, he could still sell and net a profit over his mounting costs.

Alternatively, and perhaps more likely, Elders can wait and hope that in the next few months Allied's share price will slip further towards the 255p of Elders now lapsed offer. The downside of that is the hefty cost of keeping Elders' elaborate lines of finance open.

Yesterday, Allied's chairman, Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, was jubilant about the referral and intent that his company's independence should be preserved. But he might be wryly amused by the comments of Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, who was taking the opportunity of a lunch-time speech in Leicester to try and answer criticism that existing mergers policy is so opaque as to be indiscernible.

He said: "I should stress that present policy generally is favourable towards mergers and my belief is that the threat of take-over is an incentive to existing management to improve their performance." Of course, the OFT is unlikely to find itself on the receiving end of such constructive discomfort.

Neither the stock market nor - on the strength of Sir Gordon Borrie's remarks - the Office of Fair Trading, is coming to the aid of Distillers, under siege from the Argyll Group. Pressure therefore is growing for the head of Trafalgar House, Sir Nigel Brookes, who has just joined the Distillers' board as a non-executive director to become chairman and lead the defence against the astute and nimble footed James Gulliver from the front.

The embarrassment of such a move is obvious; but so too are the problems of character, temperament and experience of the chairman, John Connell, when faced with a life or death situation like the Argyll bid. Mr Connell is due to meet a Scottish TUC delegation on Monday.

Distillers has already made changes in its defence. Ian Ross, the 43-year-old managing director designate of John Walker & Sons, Distillers' most profitable Scotch subsidiary, has been appointed head of the

campaign against the bid north of the Border. Mr David Connell, the managing director of John Walker and Mr Bill Spengler, deputy chief executive of Distillers, are leading the opposition from London.

Distillers' shares closed yesterday at 493p, against an Argyll bid value of 511p.

Harsh reality for societies

The Building Societies Bill and the accompanying proposals on the conversion of mutual societies into public limited companies appears, on the face of it, to open the door to a wholesale restructuring of the industry through a spate of mergers and incorporations. On closer inspection, the Government's plans are a cunning balance: it allows the possibility while making the reality extremely difficult.

A marriage between two consenting societies can go ahead much as before, although agreement by 50 per cent of borrowers who vote will now be needed as well as 75 per cent of voting investing members. In the case of mergers between societies of "disproportionate size" (defined in the Bill as involving a society less than one-eighth the size of the other), a further 20 per cent of all members must agree to the merger to make the marriage legal. It is not easy to get such a high turnout. The Alliance and Leicester managed to persuade only 10 per cent of their members to vote on their recent merger.

The Bill opens the way to unfriendly mergers by allowing the aggressor society, access to another society's register of members - but only under stringent conditions and under close regulation by the new Building Societies Commission.

Incorporation is likely to prove even more difficult under the proposals to be included in the Bill at committee stage. The same voting requirements as for mergers between societies of disproportionate size would apply to a vote for incorporation.

While investors would be offered preferential treatment in the new company's share issue, they would have no rights to the old societies' reserves. Instead, they would be given cash bonus in proportion to the value of their minimum deposits if they remained depositors with the company for two years after incorporation. Alternatively, they could opt to take voting shares in the company after two years - but these would pay no dividends.

This system bears strong resemblance to the system in America of incorporating savings and loan institutions, and the US example is followed further in the limitation on individual shareholdings to 15 per cent of the new company for the first five years of its existence.

Distress signals over second-hand ships

Britain's shipping industry is shooting itself in the foot. This week Mr Brian Shaw, president of the General Council of British Shipbuilding, asked the Government to give shipping companies tax allowances on second-hand ships.

The effect would be disastrous. Our shipping companies need fewer, not more, second-hand ships. The industry is suffering from overcapacity, old ships need to be scrapped. The industry should ask for tax allowances on scrapping ships, rather than be encouraged to perpetuate the lives of vessels which are under used.

The request, put forward in an early budget submission, seems to reflect the widespread belief in Britain that American expansion especially in the container field will soon prove misjudged and that as a result there will be distress sales of almost new ships. British container companies want to pick them up cheaply. But if the vessels are sold because they are not viable they should surely be taken to the Greek beaches for breaking up rather than be kept afloat.

Hanson makes hostile £1.9bn takeover bid for Imperial

By Our City Staff

Hanson Trust launched a £1.9 billion takeover bid for Imperial Group, the John Player cigarettes and Courage brewing combine, last night. It is the fifth bid worth more than £1 billion to be launched on the stock market in the last month.

Imperial immediately rejected the bid as "unwelcome and totally inadequate". The company intends to press on with merger talks with United Biscuits.

Hanson, which two days ago announced a 50 per cent rise in half year pretax profits to £233 million, is already involved in a \$930 million takeover bid for SCM Corporation in New York. The Hanson bid comes only a week after Imperial announced agreed takeover terms worth £1.32 billion for United Biscuits. That was seen at the time as defensive for both companies.

Hanson is offering two of its



Geoffrey Kent: No merit in meeting

shares and £5.32 worth of Hanson 8 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock for every five Imperial shares valuing Imperial at 250p a share.



Lord Hanson: Several attempts at merger

Imperial shareholders far better than the perceived value of the Imperial United Biscuits deal". Imperial replied that it saw no merit in a meeting.

"With the announcement of the apparent reverse takeover of Imperial Group by United Biscuits, we believe that Imperial's board has clearly moved away from that policy", Lord Hanson said.

The bid, the largest Hanson has mounted in Britain compares with the stock market worth of Hanson Trust late this week of some £3 billion.

The view from the Hanson camp is that the offer for Imperial will not affect the bid for SCM.

A statement from Hanson Trust said: Imperial shareholders will see in the Hanson offer the opportunity to obtain an immediate higher value for their shares and to participate in the future growth of the enlarged and diversified Hanson Trust with its proven and long-standing international management and performance record."

\$880m offer for Kaiser Aluminum

New York (AP-DJ) - An investment group led by the Oklahoma businessman, Mr J. A. Frates, offered to buy Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation in a leveraged buyout valued at about \$880 million (\$584 million).

The unsolicited offer was made directly to the company's chairman, The Fratesgroup said it hoped to make a friendly acquisition, but might wage a proxy fight to oust the board if the bid were turned down. In Oakland, California, Kaiser Aluminum declined immediate comment, but has called Mr Frates' interest in it unwelcome.

The offer is \$20 a share - in cash and the rest in debt securities. It came after the close of Thursday's trading on the New York Stock Exchange, when, in composite trading, Kaiser Aluminum shares closed at \$16.75 down 25 cents.

The Frates group said details of the proposal were still being developed. Groups led by Mr Frates have been successful in some big acquisitions, but not in others.

The offer comes two months after Mr Frates first expressed an interest in Kaiser, which produces aluminium and has interests in oil, gas, property and chemicals. This week, he sought to buy the company by adding Mr Alan Clore, a British investor, to his investment group.

Together, the group owns about 5 per cent of the company's 43.8 million shares outstanding and controls an additional 4 per cent, a spokesman said.

In a leveraged buyout, a company is acquired largely by borrowings that are repaid with funds generated by the target's operations.

Kaiser Aluminum recently posted a third-quarter loss of \$17.7 million on revenue of \$545 million, but the Frates spokesman said the group saw it as good investment.

Wilmot giving up ICL job

By Our Business Correspondent

Dr Rob Wilmot is resigning his positions as part-time chairman of ICL, the computer company, and a director of STC at the end of this year so that he can devote more time to other interests in the European electronics industry.

Dr Wilmot was one of the main architects of ICL's recovery since its takeover last year by STC. Chief among his projects is European Silicon Structures.

Mr Peter Bonfield, managing director of ICL, is to succeed Dr Wilmot at ICL.

Housing forecast

Private housing starts are expected to reach 160,000 in 1985 and to remain at this level for the next two years, according to the latest forecast from the National Council of Building Material Producers. This compares with 154,000 in 1984.

Reagan considering anti-trust changes

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration, frustrated by its inability to provide more help to import-battered United States companies, is considering an extensive overhaul of the anti-trust laws to make American industry more competitive.

Under a programme outlined by Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, the Administration would exempt companies hurt by imports from merger restrictions, allowing them to band together in vast conglomerates to meet competition from Europe and Asia.

The proposal, bearing the unanimous endorsement of two important cabinet councils, has been sent to President Reagan.

Senior officials said the proposal should be regarded as another step in the Administration's campaign to develop

Japanese growth slows

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Japanese economy is slowing, with a further drop in growth expected as the yen's rise against the dollar hits exports.

Growth in gross national product was down to 0.6 per cent in the third quarter from 1.4 per cent in the second. A decline in exports to the

Tin trading suspension extended

By Michael Prest Financial Correspondent

Tin trading on the London Metal Exchange will be suspended for another week, the LME announced yesterday. But, in practice, the lead in the crucial negotiations with the International Tin Council has been assumed by a group of 13 LME brokers.

A spokesman for the group, Mr Ralph Kesteven, managing director of Gerald Metals, said: "We're taking the lead from the LME and we're taking the lead from the banks because, frankly, our living is at risk."

The 13 are Amalgamated Metal Trading, Henry Bath, Boustead Davis, Gerald Metals, Gill & Duffus, Holco, Lazmet, MacLaine Watson, Metallgesellschaft, Metid, Mocatta Commercial, J.H. Rayner and Rudolf Wolff.

The collective exposure of these firms - all have direct contract contracts with the ITC buffer stock - is 49,000 tonnes of tin. Losses would depend on the eventual tin price. But they could be as high as £200m.

The brokers' group met the full ITC on Thursday. One result was a promise by the ITC to set up a working party, possibly of four representatives, which would meet the brokers on Tuesday.

Shares rise in Far East

Singapore (AFP) - The twin share markets of Singapore and Kuala Lumpur made a partial recovery yesterday from their worst ever performance on Thursday after reopening from a forced closure, but dealers gave warnings of further falls.

The Singapore stock exchange dealt in 20.23 million shares worth a total of S\$36.28 million (£12.09 million). The Straits Times industrial index rose 21.68 points from its all-time low of 609.54.

The Kuala Lumpur exchange, which shares nearly 70 per cent of its listings with Singapore, showed a 20 to 30 per cent recovery in share prices, putting on 12.72 points compared to Thursday's 36.65 point drop that took the exchange's industrial index down to 399.57.

Chetwynd float

Chetwynd Streets, the advertising and financial public relations company, is coming to the stock market via an offer for sale 2.4 million shares at 120p each. The company is capitalised at £12.7 million.

Tempus, page 26

Double take over

John Waddington has brought Comet Products, a plastic container manufacturer and Label Converters, a supplier to the food industry for an initial combined consideration of £7.4 million.

Tempus, page 26

£37m bid

Morgan Crucible, the engineering products company, yesterday launched a £37.5 million bid for First Castle Electronics. Morgan is offering five shares for every seven, valuing each at 145p. There is a 13p cash alternative.

Tempus, page 26

The 13-member ministerial council of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) will start its deliberations in Geneva today on how the organization can influence world oil prices without a clear resolution on its agenda.

Offshore orders

Britain's offshore supply industry is likely to end 1985 winning over 75 per cent of the £4 billion contracts placed by the oil industry this year. Several orders are likely to be announced with Shell placing orders for the construction of deck and modules for its Tern and Eider fields.

Two near deal on Channel rail link

Two of the four fixed Channel link consortia are close to agreeing terms with British Rail and SNCF, the French network for a rail link.

Government assessors had given the consortia until yesterday to reach an agreement on tolling terms with the two

national rail companies, but all four missed the deadline.

British Rail said last night that it was close to agreeing terms with both Channel Tunnel Group and Channel Expressway, but that an accord with EuroRoute which is

proposing a link involving bridges, tunnels and islands link, at a cost of £7.2 billion was some distance off.

Channel Tunnel Group's claim to have secured firm financial backing has been challenged by EuroRoute.

Listing restored at Massey Ferguson

By David Young

Massey-Ferguson, the Canadian farm machinery group, has had its Toronto Stock Exchange listing restored after a 24-hour suspension.

The group recently completed a £21 million modernization at its Coventry plant, and announced that a further £60 million is to be invested there in the next five years.

Massey-Ferguson has long-term debts of more than \$600 million (£406 million) and hopes to announce a full restructuring programme in the new year.

It has been hit badly by a fall in demand for the large-scale combine harvester it makes in Canada, but the market for the smaller equipment and tractors it builds in Britain has remained buoyant.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1117.6 (+7.2)
FT All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	83.35 (-0.10)
FT-SE 100	1401.9 (+6.9)
Bargains	30.07
Dataseam USM	107.43 (-7.3p)
New York	1478.32 (-4.58)
Tokyo	12793.53 (-70.58)
Nikkei Dow	1721.99 (-27.98)
Hong Kong	239.2 (+0.3)
Amsterdam: GEN	984.3 (-1.9)
Sydney: AO	1782.0 (-20.5)
Frankfurt	944.41 (-2.15)
Brussels	247.8 (-1.8)
Paris: CAC	

GOLD

London fixing	\$322.50 pm \$322.90
close	\$322.50-\$323.00 (\$218.25-218.75)
New York	\$322.35
Corona	\$322.35

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Thomson T-Line	85p +48p
Sunlight Electr	18p +4p
First Castle	146p +34p
Intervis Video	3.50p +0.50p
Unigroup	73p +10p
Audiocolor	4p +0.50p
Metal Closures	15p +14p
Bullers	53p +3p
Ocean Wilsons	53p +4p
ICC Oil Services	8p +0.50p
Halstead (James)	117p +7p
Beacham Group	340p +20p
Watson (R. Kevin)	244p +14p
Automotive Prod	108p +6p
Noble & Lund	54p +3p
Plessey	182p +10p
Costs Patons	187p +9p

FALLS:

Bristol Oil	12p -2p
Juliana's Hides	75p -10p
Bio-Isolates	100p -10p
Petrol	33p -3p
CPS Computer	145p -12p
Platino Int	63p -8p
Westland	26p -2p

CURRENCIES

London:	
£: \$1.4780 (-0.0015)	
DM: \$3.7310 (-0.0037)	
Sw: \$3.1120 (+0.0049)	
FF: \$11.3898 (+0.0010)	
Yen: \$300.32 (-0.52)	
Index: 81.1 (-0.1)	
New York (Latest):	
£: \$1.4780	
DM: \$3.7310	
Sw: \$3.1120 (+0.2)	
FF: \$11.3898	
Yen: \$300.32	
Index: 81.1	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 11 1/4%	
3-month Interbank: 11 1/4%-11 1/2%	
3-month eligible bills:	
buying rate: 11 1/4%-11 1/2%	
US:	
Prime Rate: 9.50%	
Federal Funds: 7 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.24-7.22%	
30-year bond price: 98 1/4-99 1/4	

WHAT A YEAR IN EUROPE!

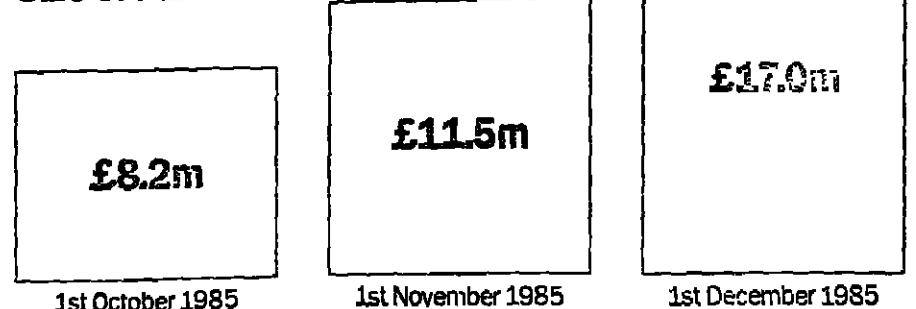
1985 has been a rewarding year for investment in Europe. Our optimism has been justified.

Over the 12 months to the 1st December 1985 the Oppenheimer European Growth Trust was up 56.4%*

For the fourth consecutive month it is the top performing fund in its sector over a year.

This sustained performance has attracted a lot of interest as can be seen from the steady growth in fund size.

Oppenheimer European Growth Size of Fund.



The Trust continues to be actively managed. For the latest portfolio changes contact our Dealers on 01-236 3885 (6 lines)

*Figure is offer to bid with net income reinvested 1/12/84 - 1/12/85. Source: "Planned Savings"

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Mercantile House Group
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Trading was extremely quiet yesterday. The dollar edged slightly higher and the pound fell marginally, but spreads were narrow in both cases.

Operators said that a combination of factors contributed to the lack of activity. Dealers were nervous ahead of the Opec meeting in Geneva this week-end.

In addition, there was little to give the dollar any new direction and with the weekend upon figures.

them - and the year-end approaching - few operators were willing to take a position. Sterling moved within only a 70-point range and ended slightly weaker against the dollar at 1.4780 (1.4790). It also had a quiet day on the Continent and fell 36 points against the mark, to 3.7310 (3.7346).

The effective index closed with a 0.1 gain at 81.1. The dollar took no lead from the US unemployment figures.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	Market rates	Market rates
New York	1.4780	3 months	1.4780
London	1.4780	6 months	1.4780
Frankfurt	1.4780	9 months	1.4780
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DOLLAR SPOT RATES

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MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Money was cheaper yesterday. The short rates eased, but this did not penetrate beyond one month.

Longer periods went firmer, extending the trend of the last few days, though rarely by more than 1/8, and not always fully holding the trend in the quiet conditions of the latter half of the day.

Volume was pretty low throughout, though some issues

were noted in sterling certificates of deposit at one month by clearing banks at an average of 12 1/2 per cent. But all this had petered out by lunchtime.

Day-to-day money opened on 11 1/2 per cent and eased to 11 1/4 per cent by lunchtime.

The decline continued into the afternoon.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

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FINANCIAL SERVICES BILL

Pressure grows for tough stance to protect investors

By Graham Searjeant

The continuing and embarrassing revelations over Johnson Matthey Bankers and the resurgence of past scandals at Lloyd's are bound to be fresh in the public mind when the Department of Trade and Industry publishes its Financial Services Bill on December 19.

They will certainly colour the Bill's reception and affect its final content.

Strictly speaking, the Bill will cover neither of these matters.

Banks are supervised by the Bank of England and a separate Bill is being drawn up to toughen the regime. Lloyd's regulates itself under the 1982 Lloyd's Act. Its lingering frauds relate to periods before the Act.

The subsequent behaviour of Lloyd's over market responsibilities to names, over preferred syndicates and over the future role of its chief executive are not shining advertisements for self-regulation. But the Lloyd's Act is very different from the system envisaged in the Financial Services Bill.

This will set up a Securities and Investment Board to agree the rules and then supervise the performance of the self-regulating organizations for different trades.

The detection and supervision of fraud, moreover, is by no means the prime concern of the Bill. Its aim is to introduce better protection for investors by ensuring that anyone from life insurance salesmen to commodity brokers operates according to rules that will be fair to investors in the ordinary day-to-day conduct of business.

Because of its timing, just before the big bang on the Stock Exchange, it particularly aims to ensure that investors are protected from conflicts of interest that will arise from breaking down barriers between brokers and jobbers/dealers and from the ownership of stock exchange firms by banks, merchant banks and investment advice groups.

Current public scandals are bound to intrude on the Bill. There will be pressure to include Lloyd's within the scope of the new system.

Mr Michael Howard, the Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, who has detailed responsibility for the Bill in the trade and industry department, says that the

Government "has no present plans to put Lloyd's into the Bill". The department may not, however, resist backbench pressure to do so.

The new system deals with deficiencies of the Lloyd's system of self-regulation and outside names at Lloyd's are now generally seen as a part, albeit a wealthy part, of the investing public.

The Roskill Committee, working on ways to improve the system of prosecuting alleged City frauds, will report in the new year, while the Bill is passing through Parliament.

Recommendations to ensure that the Director of Public Prosecutions receives all the help that the City's own regulators can give to bring cases to prosecution are likely to be incorporated in the Bill. The problem surfaced last weekend when it emerged that Lloyd's confidentiality rules prohibit it from giving transcripts of its own disciplinary hearings to the DPP voluntarily, and the DPP cannot demand them until a charge has been laid.

Law officers and the Department of Trade are sensitive to the prospect that fraud is not prosecuted vigorously and efficiently. Mr Howard is happy to roll off a series of measures taken to increase the powers of DIT inspectors, to discipline dodgy directors under the (somewhat emasculated) new Insolvency Act and to set up the co-ordinating fraud investigation unit.

Steps are in trade on extradition and on Thursday Mr Howard urged auditors to expose fraud to the authorities in the way they will be obliged to report fraud, incompetence or imprudence under the proposed Banking Bill. Legal protection for auditors who do this may also be needed and could even be included in the Financial Services Bill.

The recent accent on fraud will increase pressure on the Government to err on the side of toughness in the Bill.

The preceding White Paper, published in January, was generally welcomed for bringing regulation to all engaged in the investment business for the first time and for laying down a series of stringent principles that would have to be incorporated in the rules of business and that self-regulatory bodies must agree with their supervisory board.



Michael Howard: no plans to include Lloyd's

Complaints originally came mostly from professionals who thought the rules too tough.

Insurance companies did not want to reveal commissions except for a note saying they are acceptable to themselves.

After the mauling his predecessor received over the Insolvency Bill from vested interests in the House of Lords, Mr Howard has let it be known that he is anxious to be flexible and listen to professionals' suggestions.

Today, however, the emphasis has shifted, and complaints are likely to focus on potential weaknesses rather than restrictions in the Bill. In essence, many of those complaints reject self-regulation and want more direct statutory control of the City, and high street investment selling, on the model originally set up by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission after the Great Crash of 1929.

Many would, for instance, like breaches of the principles to be a criminal offence rather than a mere breach of a professional code, punishable, in the extreme, by a ban on trading imposed by one's peers.

Even friends of the voluntary approach such as Sir John Nott, chairman of Lazard's (a firm sceptical of the City revolution) fears that a full statutory system is inevitable; when some of the new firms collapse, self-regulation will be blamed.

The Government will have none of this. Mr Howard points out that experience has pushed the American system as far as it can go in the direction of the one proposed here.

He argues: "The actual business of regulation in the United States is now done by self-regulating organisations. So it is not a question of having an SEC type body or a self-regulating body. The comparison is between a supervising body for the SROs that is confined by statute or one that is not."

The proposed British board, paid for by the trade and run by professionals approved by the Government and Bank of England will be more flexible, Mr Howard suggests.

It "can change its rules to suit new conditions without the whole panoply of legislative change. It will be more effective because it is not statutory."

The Bill is also likely to set up just one board, the embryo Securities and Investment Board and Marketing of Investments Board (dealing respectively with the previous responsibilities of the Bank of England and Department of Trade) will probably breathe life as one. That will answer criticisms that new developments and the creation of financial conglomerates might rapidly overtake the scope of a split supervision.

Mr Howard also rejects calls for criminal sanctions to be brought in, except in case of fraud or trading with authorization. The new system "will be able to deal with breaches more

quickly and effectively than is ever likely in the criminal courts. If there is statutory code, you can hire batteries of lawyers to find loopholes and exploit them." With a self-regulating system, "it is much easier to close gaps in the rules."

The weakness of this thinking, which will certainly be probed in Parliament, is that it assumes City men are anxious to play by the spirit of the rules. In practice, it will often pay them to push the rules to the limit and the pressure of competition will encourage them to do so.

It also assumes that the great majority of practitioners truly believe in the principles that are to be translated from the White Paper to the Bill - which is an exaggeration.

This weakness can show through in several ways.

We have already seen firms involved in takeovers resorting to the courts rather than the rulings of the Takeover Panel. There will be a separate body to hear appeals against rulings of the SROs, and this is likely to encourage the increased use of lawyers and legalistic challenge to rules through the process.

The SROs will be able to impose a variety of sanctions are unlikely to be used against respected members of trading communities. And the system will probably not be able to impose any fines, since this is regarded as a sanction for criminal law and beyond devolved statutory powers.

Negotiation of codes acceptable to the supervisory board may also be far from simple. The new board will be able to refuse to recognize a self-regulating organization if it does not produce suitable rules. This will give the board the whip hand with new organizations such as those for commodities or licensed dealers in securities.

It will not be so easy to turn down the Stock Exchange, recognized as an example of what an SRO ought to be like, if it sticks on a few lesser but important points. Unless the board has powers to impose rules, there may have to be a good deal of compromise.

BUILDING SOCIETIES

A hitherto unreported case is likely to throw the building societies and banks into turmoil.

John Sampson, a property lawyer with Nabarro Nathanson and editor of *Property Law Bulletin*, said: "As a result of recent developments in the law culminating in the new case of *Smith v Metropolitan City Properties Ltd*, mortgages of leases are no longer safe."

Mr Sampson is surprised that as far as he knows no details of the case have been published until today, even though it was heard in September.

The case deals with the all too common problem of what happens when lessees do not comply with the terms of their leases. Failure to pay rent and service charges are the usual reasons why landlords take action against leaseholders. In the *Smith* case, however, the lessee did not carry out repairs.

When you buy a leasehold property you are bound by the terms of your lease. It is not only the landlord but also your mortgagee who is concerned that you meet these requirements. Your mortgagee has lent money on the security of the property and must protect the investment.

If you default under the terms of your lease - for example, fail to pay rent or service charges or carry out repairs - the landlord's ultimate weapon is to forfeit the lease and repossess the property. Not only do you lose your home, but your mortgagee loses his security.

If a mortgagee acts quickly enough he has a statutory right to intervene in forfeiture cases. He can prevent the forfeiture, and thereby protect his security by obtaining a substitute lease. However, a lender must intervene while the landlord's case against the leaseholder is still proceeding.

In a case last year the Abbey National Building Society as mortgagee did not intervene in time. The society knew nothing

about the proceedings until it was too late but the court said that, even though its statutory right to intervene was out on time, it was "just and equitable" to preserve its position. It was, therefore, given a lifeline.

The *Smith* case is the latest of three which would now appear to take away the "just and equitable" lifeline. The cases confirm that if the lenders do not act quickly enough they lose their rights.

Surely someone is obliged to inform the mortgagees that forfeiture action is being taken and it is then up to them to intervene in time. But who is to tell them? It is not commonly realized that 99 per cent of leases do not contain a clause insisting that the landlords notify the lender that forfeiture proceedings are taking place.

The landlords are not obliged to inform the mortgagee of what is going on, so that the lease can be forfeited and the security lost, without the lenders being aware that the case has ever gone to court.

Could virtually all leases in Britain, therefore, be viewed as inadequate security by the lenders because there is no certainty that the lease will always be there to cover the mortgage? Mr Sampson says: "Unless a lease has a provision in its forfeiture clause for a notice to be given to a mortgagee, the mortgagee is at risk. If it becomes general practice for mortgagees to take this cautious view, then whenever leases do not contain this added protection they will not be treated as adequate security. This could have serious repercussions on the market for leasehold property."

If this is the case, Mr Sampson feels nothing but drastic action can rectify the situation. Nearly all existing leases in England and Wales would have to be changed by deeds of variation. This would not only be costly but completely impractical. Alternatively he says: "Legislation is urgently called for to remedy the situation and give proper protection to mortgagees."

Susan Fieldman

Time for decisions from the top

CAPITAL TRANSFER TAX

Clerical Medical & General is about to launch one of the highly controversial discounted gift Capital Transfer Tax avoidance schemes - otherwise known as "inheritance trusts".

All versions of inheritance trusts - whether discounted gift or other types - are attackable under current tax legislation and the Inland Revenue has refused to indicate, which, if any, of the schemes it intends to challenge.

But when a blue-chip life office such as Clerical Medical & General moves into this field, the time has come for the Government to make its intentions clear on this topic. Either it intends that CTT is paid on people's assets when they die - in which case all the inheritance trusts will have to be outlawed - or it allows inheritance trusts to continue, which means that only the financially naive and those whose assets consist entirely of the family home or business will ever pay CTT.

So long as "inheritance trusts" - whether discounted gift schemes or other variations - are allowed to exist, CTT will remain a purely voluntary tax.

Meanwhile, insurance brokers and other advisers are making a killing on commissions on these schemes. Generally speaking, CTT avoidance schemes are not worth doing unless you have cash or near cash of at least £50,000, and therefore a potential CTT problem. An usual commission on effecting such a scheme is 5 to 7 per cent - also work if you can get it.

But why should the Government allow this situation to persist, if it eventually intends to crack down on these tax avoidance devices? The Revenue line on this is revealing. In informal discussions Revenue officials say that although they could at present challenge these CTT avoidance schemes, they will not move until their loss is sufficient to justify the challenge.

"Not enough people who have effected CTT avoidance schemes have yet died, so the Revenue loss is not sufficient to justify a crackdown," was how one official explained it.

The Government is perfectly able to act swiftly to crack down on these schemes - witness its fast reaction to the potential revenue loss which the offshore roll-up

funds represented. And there is evidence that it ought to move soon to prevent a big loss of revenue.

The total tax take from the old Estate Duty and Capital Transfer Tax, its successor, introduced in 1975, has gone up from £329.9 million in 1975-76 to an estimated £680 million in 1984-85. Yet inflation in that time has increased by 179 per cent, with the revenue from CTT therefore showing a reduction in real terms of 30 per cent.

The insurance companies have been doing swift business in CTT avoidance schemes. Legal & General, market leader in the controversial discounted gift scheme, has taken in more than £300 million during the past three years and interest is increasing. "The total amount invested in inheritance trusts which includes all the gift and loan schemes is going to be at least double that amount and is probably much more than that," said Tony Ayliss, of Legal & General.

The time has come for the Government to make its intentions clear before many thousands more waste at least 5 per cent of their assets in schemes which, it is subsequently feared, do not work.

Lorna Bourke

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●● Indeed, the best performing contract in the survey was linked to Target's Managed Fund. ●●

The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 31st December 1983.

●● There is no doubt that investors who had the fore-sight or luck to put money in the Target Managed Fund deserve a large dose of self-congratulation. ●●

Executive Pensions 1984 (Published by the Financial Times).

●● One Company, Target, can actually boast an investment record that is so superior that it can afford to pay twice the pension of some of the others.

Target stole a march on its rivals, because the Managed Fund holds investments directly rather than putting money into other unit-linked funds within the group. ●●

The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 17th March 1984.

●● The top cash fund for retirement at age 65 comes from Target's Managed Fund with a spectacularly good figure. This is clearly no fluke result since the same fund swept the honours board in our October 1982 survey. ●●

Money Management - June 1984.

●● Target soars head and shoulders above all rivals in the pensions field coming, once again, top of the performance league table. ●●

The Times - Saturday 26th January 1985.

●● If pension funds were racing cars then the Target Managed Pension Fund would be the length of the straight and a bit more ahead of its rivals. ●●

Money Magazine - February 1985.

●● Target Managed is unquestionably the Steve Cram of investment performance. ●●

Money Management - October 1985.

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FAMILY MONEY/2

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To: Mr. Jan Hildreth, Minster Trust Limited, Minster House,
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Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Royal Bank Scotland	11 1/2%
TSB	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

All that glitters
is not diamond

Diamonds are definitely not an investor's best friend. That is the message from the Consumers Association, publishers of *Which?* magazine. *Which?* bought two diamond rings, an antique diamond brooch, and three unmounted diamonds for £3,300 in the early 1970s. The best offer it could find for the lot this year, was £2,805. Interestingly, the worst offer was only £1,685. So not only are diamonds a lousy bet for would-be investors, but sellers should shop around very actively to get a decent price.

Incidentally, if you had put an equivalent amount into a building society ordinary share account you would have £8,580 to play with. War Loan, British Government stock, would have produced approximately £17,600 and even inflation comes out at around £12,800.

Scare tactics

A little scaremongering is sometimes necessary to get the message across and this is the approach adopted by accountants Touche Ross & Co who warn that thousands of home-buyers could lose the tax benefits of buying their own home, through ignorance of the tax laws. "Your own home is your tax-free castle but what happens if you use it for business, have to live elsewhere for a period of time, buy a second property or let part of it?" asks a new booklet, *Tax and Property Checklist*, from Touche Ross.

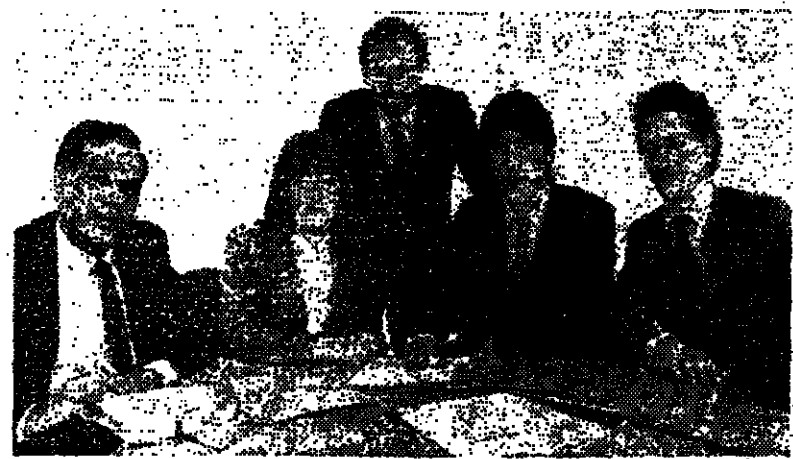
The booklet covers in simple question and answer format the tax aspects of property, including unexpected tax liabilities as a result of sale and leaseback arrangements, roll-over of Capital Gains Tax on reinvesting in property, and the possibility of obtaining a tax-free "reverse" premium on occupying premises. Copies of the booklet are available from Department TP40, Touche Ross & Co, Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR (01-353 8011). Price: £1.50, including post and packing.

One more piggy

The success of National Westminster's piggy bank scheme has pushed up the number of new accounts opened by children to more than 600,000. Early in the new year, Sir Nathaniel, the last of the five-strong family of piggy banks, will be forwarded to those children with £100 in their accounts. But to keep the children loyal, those who maintain a balance of at least £50 will automatically join the Sir Nathaniel 100 Club and will become eligible for a range of free offers, competitions and prizes. Details are available from NatWest branches.

Farmers' package

Some farmers have been having a tough time this year and at a time when resources are more than usually stretched, it may be good sense to get hold of a new video from the Institute of Chartered Accountants - *Controlling Your Farm Business*. The package is focused on a real-life situation and follows the crises that beset the Harvey family at Park Farm. It is trying to say that farmers need to watch their financial management every



A new firm of financial consultants has entered the market with impressive credentials and considerable expertise across the range of products from life assurance, unit trusts and school fees planning to pensions for both companies and the self-employed. Five former Towry Law executives, above, have started their own consultancy, Fairchild's. They are, from left, Satya Issar, Brenda Gibson, Martin Palmer, Alan Frei and Craig Bonnar, who all have extensive experience in financial planning. All but Mr. Bonnar have come directly from Towry Law. For the past year Mr. Bonnar has been working for stockbrokers Quilter Goodson as an institutional salesman. Fairchild's are registered insurance brokers and are also applying to become members of Nasdim, the National Association of Securities

brokers as carefully as they husband their livestock and crops.

The video is aimed at farmers and their financial advisers, including accountants and bankers, and also agricultural students. The package is on sale at £395 or can be obtained on hire at £85 a week from Melrose Training, 8-12 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP (01-222 1744).

That 'special' loan

One hundred per cent home loans at the attractive rate of 12.9 per cent are on offer from John Charcol Ltd, with an upper limit of £200,000. Home owners can borrow up to 2.5 times their joint income for residential loans. "Clients in special circumstances will find this attractive," said John Garfield, Charcol's managing director. "For example, a client may have used the equity in their house to start a business, or may have used their equity in a divorce settlement."

Details: John Charcol Ltd, Mercury House, 195 Knightsbridge, London SW7 (01-583 2826).

Just for juniors

The Britannia Building Society is launching a new children's account in the week before Christmas offering one of the

Dealers and Investment Managers.

The firm has started by offering mortgages and remortgages at competitive terms. If you need to borrow anything between £30,000 and £250,000 and are prepared to have either an endowment-linked or pension-linked loan, you can borrow up to 90 per cent of the property's value at the very attractive rate of 12.5 per cent. You can borrow up to three times your gross income or, in the case of couples, three times the higher income plus once the lower income.

Anyone who is still paying over the odds for home loan money should think of making a switch because there are no arrangement fees, and the only charge you will incur is the property valuation fee.

Details: Fairchild's, 54 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JH (01-639 3182).

best rates around. Brighter Savers will get 8.5 per cent net interest plus a piggy bank and the choice of a wallet, torch, purse or document folder. There are no joining fee or hidden charges. The account can be opened only for the under-16s but savers will be allowed to stay in the account until their 18th birthday. The Britannia asked children before launching the account and discovered that a piggy bank was the most popular money box. Gift cheques can be bought to open an account or top up an existing one.

The Nationwide Building Society is due to reveal its new children's account in the new year but the Alliance and Leicester says it will not be ready to replace the abandoned Leicester Moneyclub before next Autumn, and the National & Provincial's plans for a children's account are also long-term.

Abbey's new habit

The Abbey National Building Society is making the leap from the Never Never Land of mortgages to Peter Pan's Never Land Code to promote the Home Office child safety campaign. Abbey Junior Savers will get a glossy Peter Pan brochure warning of the perils of going with strangers. On the back of the quiz and colouring pages is a code: Never go

anywhere with a stranger; never take anything - even sweets - from a stranger; never get into a car or van with a stranger; never play anywhere out of sight, especially on your own; never play outside after dark; and always go home by the same route - don't wander off and always tell your teacher or parent if a stranger tries to talk to you. "Get the Never Land Habit," says the Abbey.

One for the middle man

Scimitar Asset Management, a new unit trust company, is in some circumstances giving discounts to intermediaries even where the unit holder has come to it direct. If you have once put money into Scimitar units through an intermediary, then Scimitar puts you on its computer system as a client of that intermediary. So, if at a later date you buy more units, the original intermediary will get half of the commission that he would have received had you used him again.

This does not mean you will have an additional deduction from your investment second time round. In effect, it simply means that instead of giving a discount to direct investors who cut out the middle man they previously used, it gives the commission to the middle man. Scimitar has to remain outside the Unit Trust Association to do this as members are not allowed to follow such a practice.

Cheaper breaks

If there is one time when you need good tax advice, it is when you are getting divorced or separated. Even if there are few assets and relatively small maintenance payments, there are still big tax advantages in arranging your affairs correctly. The latest booklet from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, *Taxation on Divorce and Separation* - is aimed at professionals, but is comprehensible to the intelligent layman keen to arrange his or her financial affairs properly.

The author, Philip Wylie, is a law lecturer at University College, Cardiff, and

Writing an essay on how to invest £10,000 could help you to win £2,500, as well as helping you to find out how best to invest your prize money when you've won it.

Readers of *The Times* from all over the world have already entered *The Times-Hill Samuel Young Financial Writer of the Year* competition, from as far afield as Kenya, India and Trinidad.

It is also interesting to note how the "north-south divide" is reflected in the entries from Britain - entries from the "affluent" south outnumber those from the north by three to one. No entries at all have been received from Scotland, Wales or Ireland.

There are four essay topics to choose from, and good writing style and practical recommendations are as important to the judges as technical knowledge of money matters. One enterprising reader, simply sought



specializes in personal taxation and family law. Copies of the booklet, at £5, are obtainable from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Gloucester House, 399-401 Broadway, W1N 8JL, East, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HL.

On the Pru line

Many are the ways of wooing the private investor towards unit trusts. One of the recent attempts to get you thinking unit trust thoughts is the so-called "Telephone Hotline" launched by several unit trust groups.

The latest comes from Prudential, which has a direct free telephone line to its 1100 headquarters. To quote from Prudential's own glossy publicity material the hotline will "provide a fast, efficient dealing service for the new unit trust (Robson Special Situations) and to handle general inquiries, both from the brokers and the public." The number is 0800 010345 and calls will be taken from 8am to 6pm every weekday.

Another unit trust group providing a free telephone hotline is Britannia. Britannia has a "Moneyguide" service which will give you general advice on your personal finances not just on Britannia Unit Trusts. Britannia claims that the service is not simply a sales exercise - it will not push you into its unit trusts if it thinks they are unsuitable.

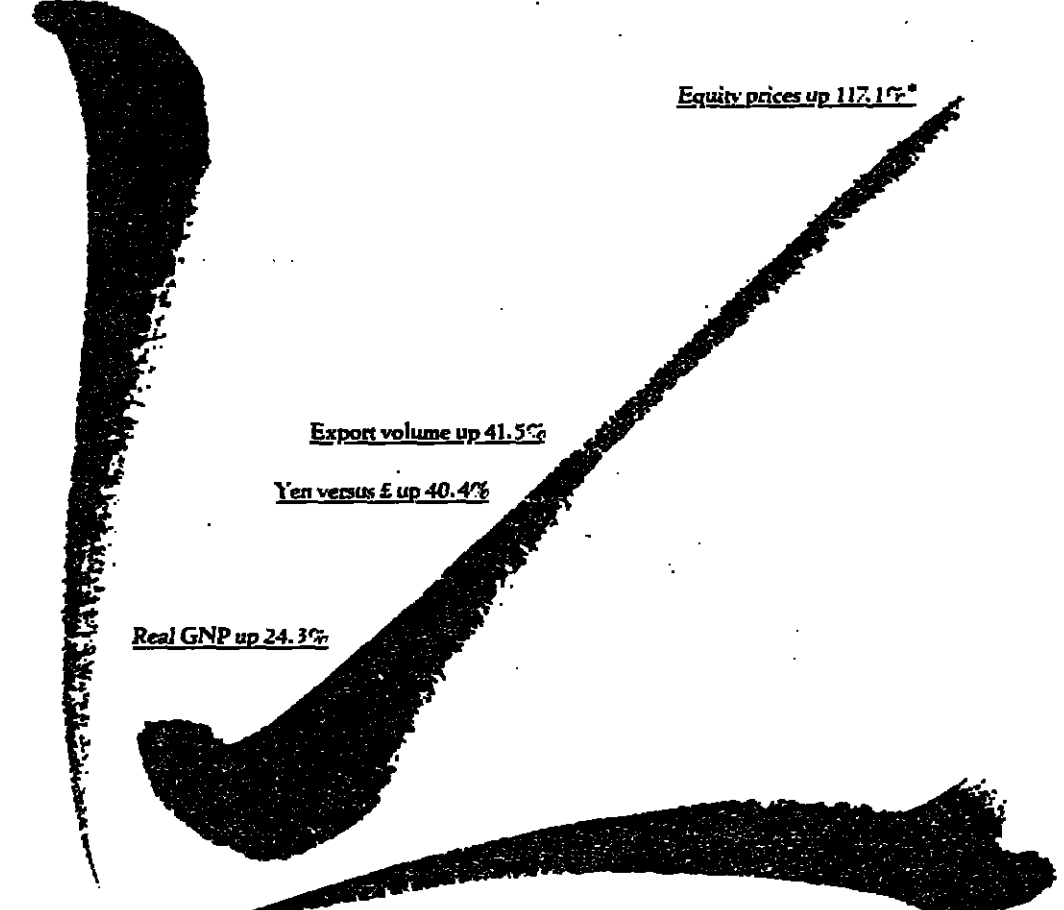
advice on the chosen topic and wrote up a report on the advice received, before indicating what seemed to be the most sensible suggestions.

One of the essay topics is: Do you sincerely want to be rich? How will you succeed?

Perhaps a good way to start would be to win £2,500 in a writing competition and then, following the advice of some of the other entrants, invest it wisely.

If you would like to enter, you can still obtain copies of *The Times* of October 19 and 26, and November 2 and 9, which contain the rules and official entry form, by writing to *The Times* Backdates Dept., 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, enclosing a cheque or postal order for 70p (to include postage and packing) or by calling in person at the above address, when copies will cost 23p. The closing date for receipt of entries is December 31.

Information over the five years to mid-1985.
*Not currency adjusted source.
Tokyo New S.E. Index

For the investor, Japan isn't
just the Land of the Rising Sun.

You hardly need us to extol the virtues of the Japanese economy.

The facts above speak for themselves.

Indeed, just about the only economic indicator that isn't on the up and up is inflation. That's down to 2.1% and holding steady.

Little wonder then that the Japanese economy is growing faster than any other in the developed world.

If you wish to secure a stake in it, you now have a splendid opportunity.

We have just launched the Lloyds Bank Japan Growth Unit Trust.

Its aim is to seek out and take maximum advantage of the growth opportunities that exist in Japan.

To this end we have several factors in our favour.

The Yen continues to be under-valued against the US Dollar.

Investment in research and development, the seedcorn of future growth, is higher than it has ever been.

And then, we humbly submit, there is the expertise of our investment managers. They know the market. They already

manage £120 million of equities in Japan.

Units can be bought from any Lloyds Bank, by customers and non-customers alike, at an initial price of 80p until December 20. (Minimum investment is £300.)

Alternatively, simply fill in the form on the right. Or phone E. W. Shipley on (0444) 459144 (24 hour service).

And then, hopefully the Land of the Rising Sun will also be the Land of your Rising Lloyds Bank Units.

GENERAL INFORMATION
The Trust Deed allows up to 20% of the Fund to be invested in the Tokyo Over The Counter market. The Managers have the right within prescribed limits to use their common sense to take maximum advantage of foreign exchange markets. They will use currency loans and any means which may be authorised by the Department of Trade to hedge the currency risk in such action is considered desirable. The Fund was set up in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed and is authorised to trade on open markets should these become available in Japanese securities.

Based upon the initial offer price of 80p, the estimated gross return will be 10% per annum. (After 10 December 1985 units may be bought at the offer price plus prevailing The Japan Growth Unit Trust is a specialist unit trust and the performance is likely to be more volatile than a broadly-based fund. You should bear this in mind when deciding what proportion of your investments should go into the trust.

Prices of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Contract notes will not be issued for the usual 40 days. Certificates will be despatched within six weeks of receipt of your cheque.

We offer investors Accumulation Units where net income is automatically re-invested or Income Units where income is distributed annually on 15 May. The first income distribution will be in May 1986.

CHARGES
The offer price includes an initial charge of 5%. The annual charge is 1% plus VAT of the net asset value of the trust.

(The Trust Deed provides that the annual charge may be increased to a maximum of 1% on 31st March 1986.) The Managers retain the right to vary the charges. The Managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries. Rates available on request.

Unit prices and totals are published daily in leading national newspapers. Units can be sold back to the Managers at not less than the minimum bid price calculated to a formula approved by the Department of Trade. Cheques are normally forwarded within 7 days of receipt of despatched contributions.

Managers: Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd, a member of the Unit Trust Association Reg. Office: 71 Lombard Street, London EC3N 3BS. Registered in England No. 161601. Trustees: Alliance Assurance Co. Ltd.

To: Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH16 3ZA.

I wish to invest in units of the Japan Growth Unit Trust at 80p per unit and receive a remuneration payable to Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd.

Unit 20 December 1985 your investment will be at 80p per unit, thereafter unit may be bought at the offer price plus prevailing The minimum initial investment is £300. Additional unit purchases must be for not less than £100.

Accumulation Units with income re-invested, will normally be issued if you prefer Income Units, with income distributed annually, please tick here ☐

I declare that I am at least 18 years old. Date of birth if aged between 16 and 17 (joint applicants must sign and attach names and addresses separately.)

Signature Date

Mr/Ms/Ms Title/Forename BLACK CAPITALS PLEASE

Surname

Address

Postcode

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Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to The Nationwide Building Society are available in the External Statistical Services. Copies may be collected from Companies Announcements Office, P.O. Box No. 119, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT until 10th December 1985 and until 23rd December 1985 from:-

Fulton Packshaw Ltd.,
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London EC4M 7JT

Laurie, Milbank & Co.,
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London EC2V 5DP

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7th December 1985

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FAMILY MONEY/3

Keep the loans, cut the costs

BANK CHARGES

The announcement of free banking by three of the high street banks is good news for bank customers. Barclays and National Westminster are introducing free banking immediately and Lloyds is to follow suit in March next year, bringing then into line with Midland which introduced free banking a year ago.

All four of the Banks, as well as TSB, the Scottish banks, Williams & Glyn's Co-op, Yorkshire Bank and Girobank offer free banking provided you keep your current account in credit during the relevant charging period.

There are, however, some variations. Lloyds, for example, is cutting the charging period from three months to one month, making it easier for those who are occasionally overdrawn to stay the right side of the charging line.

Both Barclays and Lloyds offer the alternative of keeping an average credit balance of £500 in the account to qualify for free banking - useful for

those whose balances vary widely during the course of a quarter.

But the other side of the coin is that charges when you do go into the red are to go up, making it even more important for those on the borderline to avoid becoming overdrawn.

So what do you do if you cannot avoid being overdrawn from time to time. There are several answers. First, approach your bank manager and ask if you can have a loan account. This is not to be confused with a personal loan.

A loan account operates exactly like an overdraft - interest is charged at between 3 and 5 per cent over the bank's base rate on the outstanding balance, but it is separate from your current account.

Look back over the past year and see how much you have needed to go overdraw and arrange a loan account facility for this amount. When your current account looks like going into the red, transfer money from the loan account into your current account to avoid bank charges.

IT APPEARS THERE ARE CUSTOMERS OUT THERE, HOSKINS, WHO ARE STILL TRYING TO AVOID PAYING BANK CHARGES - GO FETCH!



In essence, you have separated out the borrowing requirement and put it in a separate account. This way it is possible to be overdrawn but still pay no bank charges on your current account.

Your bank manager will not

like doing this but, with competition for bank customers as hot as it is, any suggestion that you might go elsewhere should make him think twice before turning down your proposal.

If your bank account is overdrawn, open an account with Citibank Savings - one of its Cheque Plus accounts. You can do this with as little as £5. The appeal of the Cheque Plus account is that there are no bank charges and you are paid interest, currently around 7 per cent, on credit balances. However, you cannot be overdrawn.

Having opened the account with Citibank, you transfer into it every month a sum sufficient to cover your outgoing mortgage repayments, gas, electricity and the like. You pay all cheques from this account leaving your overdraft behind at your high street bank.

You will incur no charges with Citibank and no charges other than interest charges with your usual high street bank, but you will retain the overdraft facility.

In addition to transferring money into the Citibank account to meet bills, you can also transfer a sum every month into a building society instant access account - or one of the new card accounts which give you the use of cash machines.

This way you still incur interest-only charges on your bank account, have access to cash through the building society account, and pay your bills with Citibank cheques.

Lorna Bourke

From phone line information to poster boards

BUSINESS EXPANSION

This week's menu of Business Expansion Scheme companies seeking direct investment includes a company which has been trading since 1930. Adspeed Group is hoping to raise £550,000 for its business which at the moment is largely the manufacture and installing of sign boards.

Investors should note that £300,000 of this money is intended for paying off Adspeed's existing bank borrowings. The balance will be used primarily to develop and launch a "demountable" exhibition structure which will be marketed among the company's existing clientele.

The structure is in essence a 500 sq ft module, which can be put up and taken down to be used again. It is also flexible in that it can actually be assembled in different shapes.

Its main use, according to Adspeed, will be as temporary promotional or reception accommodation for building development sites and indoor or outdoor exhibitions.

The company certainly boasts an impressive list of clients for its existing activities and, somewhat unusually for BES issues these days, a board of directors containing no one under 40.

Investors in Adspeed will find themselves bed partners with the Riverplate & General Investment Trust, which owns 48.8 per cent of the shares.

The company is forecasting but not projecting profits before tax of £155,000 for the current year. This would certainly be higher than in the previous five years. The pretax profit record is erratic for this period, although the company blames an unsuccessful franchise programme for depressing profits in two of the five years' trading records shown in the prospectus.

An interesting and unusual BES offering this week is Audiotext, a start-up company which is going to provide educational information and entertainment programmes over the telephone.

In essence this is simply an extension of existing information services available on the telephone, such as TIM, Discipline, Raceline and London Weather.

Audiotext has already been granted a contract from British Telecom to provide telephone programmes in the Greater London area - although its

intention is to branch out to other regions.

The service makes its money through the amount that British Telecom will charge callers. These are local calls, but Telecom will charge a hefty 75p per call made during standard and peak times and 45p for cheap rate period calls. Of this Audiotext will get 45p and 28p respectively.

Not surprisingly, the contract that Audiotext has with Telecom is fairly hard to come by. At the moment it lasts for one year, although Pauline Marks, the founder and the principal director behind Audiotext, says she is confident of the contract being renewed.

Audiotext is looking for £250,000, which will acquire 20 per cent of the business, valuing the company therefore at £1.25 million. Mrs Marks herself gets 2.55 million shares, at the 1p nominal value, rather than the 25p that all outsiders are being asked to pay.

This gives her 51 per cent of

the company, which she gets in return for the purchase of Pauline Marks (Phonecel) Ltd, the company which has the Telecom contract.

Audiotext is projecting - not forecasting - profits of £194,000 for its first year's trading and Mrs Marks says she has been knocking on Telecom's doors for five years and talking to Telecom people seriously since January.

Her daughter, also a director, is getting 50,000 shares, paying 1p each for them rather than 25p. Clients of sponsors Tapal Investments are also getting in at the same price. In fact, apart from the public's 20 per cent stake, everyone else appears to be taking a slice of the remaining 80 per cent for 1p a share.

Audiotext will use the money raised from the public primarily to advertise its service to conduct market research, and to take advantage of any opportunities to provide the service in other parts of Britain.

The company will start with a Jokeline, two minutes of jokes, changed every day. The other line that it will provide is Starline, consisting of 12 different telephone numbers, one for every star sign.

"Your horoscope for the day is only a phone call away," will be the advertising slogan. Expenses of this issue come to £69,150, a high 27.66 per cent of the money being raised.

Lawrence Lever

TSB Midland Bank Lloyds Bank BARCLAYS BANK NatWest

NO CHARGES. BUT HOW MUCH INTEREST?

You might not be paying current account charges anymore. But there's a good chance you're still losing out on the interest your money is earning. Send for our free guide to bank charges and high interest banking. And we'll tell you a few things of real interest.

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When half-yearly interest is paid into the account

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If you're self-employed or the director of a private company, you'll know all about the tax advantages of investing in a pension plan.

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What it doesn't show, however, is that the Target plan has out-performed all other personal pension plans over the last five years.

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Except, of course, with a growth record like ours, we think you'll want to invest more rather than less.

To find out more, fill out the Freepost coupon below.

Please let me have further information on the Target Pension Plan.

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Age _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Business tel. no. _____

Send to: Dept. MF, Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Freepost, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3TA. Tel: Aylesbury (0296) 5941.

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Then think about this: with a Premium Account from The Royal Bank of Scotland you can write cheques for any amount you like, for whatever may crop up in the day-to-day business of life.

And because there's so much more to your financial affairs than simply writing cheques, we'll also provide you with all the other payment facilities a current account has to offer.

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INTEREST RATE PER ANNUM		
Correct at time of going to press. Subject to variation. Interest paid quarterly.		
Gross Rate	Compounded Annual Rate	Net Rate
11.00%	12.11%	8.22%

*The Compounded Annual Rate shown in the Net Rate is calculated to show what the rate is actually worth to a Bank's Regular Saver.

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34 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB.
Registered in Scotland No. 9032.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

24 Lombard Street London EC3N 3BA

Send to: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Premium Accounts, FREEPOST, 24 Lombard Street, LONDON EC3N 3DR (no stamp required).

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TIM/21

EUROPEAN MARKETS ARE MOVING FAST

**£16M INVESTED
IN THREE WEEKS
-INVEST NOW-**

The New Fidelity European Trust

The Fidelity Group has been investing successfully in Europe for over 10 years. So successfully that leading U.S. and U.K. pension funds have already entrusted over £400m to Fidelity for European investment. Our knowledge of Europe is therefore comprehensive. However, this proven expertise has not previously been available to individual investors. Until the recent launch of our new European Trust.

FIDELITY'S INVESTMENT RECORD

Now anyone with £500 or more to invest can benefit from our extensive experience in Europe.

And anyone who has already invested in our wide range of unit trusts will know what that can mean. Our Japan Trust has performed better than any other unit trust in its sector over the past 3 years. And our Special Situations Trust and Growth + Income Trust are both third in their respective sectors. (Source: Planned Savings 1st November 1985.)

So you can see why we are confident of doing so well in Europe.

ON THE SPOT RESEARCH

To make sure we do, we'll be using the resources of our six investment managers and four analysts who will provide the sort of advice that is often lacking in European investment - on the spot research. For example, in 1985 we will have visited some 300 companies in Europe. That's more than one visit every working day.

The new Fidelity European Trust will invest for growth. Unlike many

other European funds, investment will not be restricted to certain countries, sectors or sizes of company. Instead the aim is to invest in a wide and well-balanced selection of companies and countries, and move actively from market to market as investment opportunities change.

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN EUROPE

The weight of money moving into European investments over recent months, the increased interest by both private clients and institutions, the rapid inflow of American institutional money and the increasing strength of many European economies and stockmarkets all indicate that now is the time to invest in Europe. And what better way than through the new Fidelity European Trust, which offers Fidelity's proven investment experience in Europe to unit trust investors for the first time.

INVEST NOW

The minimum investment for this Trust is £500. To invest simply complete the coupon and return it to us together with your cheque. Alternatively, telephone our investment advisers on Callfree 0800 414161 between 9.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday, or on Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

**CALLFREE
0800-414161**

FIDELITY EUROPEAN TRUST

GENERAL INFORMATION A contract note for your application together with a brochure will be sent immediately. Your certificate will be sent within 30 days. The current gross yield is 4.48% at the offer price of 25.3p per Fidelity European Trust at 5th December 1985. Accumulation units only will be issued. The first distribution date is 17th November 1986 (i.e. 1st October). An initial charge of 5% (equivalent to 4.76% of the offer price) is included in the price of units out of which the Managers will pay commission to qualified agents (trains available upon request). The Trust pays an annual charge to the Managers out of income (or capital if there is insufficient income) of between 1% and 10% plus V.A.T. at the value of the Fund. The annual charge is currently 10% plus V.A.T. but the Managers have the right to change this within the above range, subject to giving not less than 3 months' notice to unit holders. Units may be sold on any day at the bid price ruling on receipt of your redemption certificate. Prices are quoted daily in the Financial Times, Oracle 574, and Pictorial 461506. Trustees: Capel-Cure Myers plc. Managers: Fidelity International Management Limited. Registered Office: River Walk, Fenchurch, Kent TN11 1DY. The Trust is a wider-range trustee security authorised by the D.T.I. Member of the Unit Trust Association. Offer not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

To: FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT LIMITED
RIVER WALK, FENCHURCH,
KENT TN11 1DY
TELEPHONE: 0800 414161

Signature _____
(IN CASE OF JOINT APPLICATION ALL MUST SIGN)
Surname Mr/Ms/Miss _____
(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)
First names _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I wish to invest £ _____
In Fidelity European Trust at the offer price ruling on receipt of my application and receive my cheque made payable to Fidelity International Management Limited.
Minimum investment is £500.



INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - seven days, notice required for withdrawals.
Barclays 5.75 per cent. Lloyds 5.75 per cent. Midland 5.75 per cent. NatWest 5.75 per cent. National Girobank 6 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 8.125 per cent, 3 months 8 per cent, 6 months 7.75 per cent, 1 year 7.5 per cent. 3 months 7.57 per cent, 6 months 7.38 per cent; Midland. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS

Fund	Net Assets	Share Price	Telephone
Aldian Home Monthly Inc.	£22.65	0.188	0800 6070
B of Students	£22.53	0.188	0800 6070
Barclays Higher Rate			
Deposit Account	£37.84	0.188	0800 1567
£10,000 & over	£32.59	0.188	0800 1567
Cater/Allen call	£22.53	0.188	01 598 2777
Citibank			
Money Mkt. Plus	£34.97	0.174	0800 8591
IFC Trust 7 day	£30.57	0.174	0800 8591
Handerson Money Market			
Cheque Account	£22.53	0.188	0800 5757
Lloyds HCA	£25.51	0.188	0800 5757
M & G HCA	£22.51	0.188	0800 5757
Midland HCA			
£22,000-£29,999	£30.84	0.188	0742 20899
£10,000 & over	£30.56	0.188	0742 20899
Nat West High Interest Special			
Reserve £2,000 to £9,999	£37.84	0.178	0800 1000
£10,000 & over	£32.59	0.178	0800 1000
Opportunity Money			
(under £10,000)	£22.53	0.188	01 236 9382
Over £10,000	£31.55	0.188	01 236 9382
S & P Call a/c	£10.45	0.188	0708 66666
Shroder Weggs Money Fund			
£2,500 to £9,999	£22.53	0.188	0708 66666
over £10,000	£41.74	0.188	0708 66666
T & R 7 day call	£77.98	0.188	01 236 9382
T & R 7 day	£77.98	0.188	01 236 9382
T & R 7 day	£77.98	0.188	01 236 9382
Western trust 1 month	£32.59	0.188	0752 28191

CAIAT = Compounded Net Annual Rate. Figures are the latest available at the time of going to press.

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1985, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account - 11.5 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min. investment £2,000 - max. £50,000. Interest - 12 per cent variable at six weeks notice paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months' notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings Indexed Income Bond
Start rate monthly income for first year, 8 per cent, increased at end of each year to match increase in prices as measured by Retail Prices Index. Cash value remains the same, income taxable, paid gross. Three months notice of withdrawal. Minimum investment £5,000, in multiples of £1,000, maximum £50,000.

National Savings 3rd Index-Linked certificates

Maximum investment £5,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 2.5 per cent in the first year; 2.75 per cent in the second year; 3.25 per cent in the third year; 4 per cent in the fourth year and 5.25 per cent in the fifth year. Value of Retirement Issue Certificates purchased in December 1980, £153.20 including bonus and supplement. October RPI 377.1. (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month).

National Savings Yearly Plan
A one year regular savings plan converting into four-year savings certificates. Minimum £20. Maximum £200 a month. Return over five years 8.15 per cent - tax free.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £100 maximum £50,000. Interest 12 per cent variable at six weeks notice credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during first year.

Local authority yearling bonds
12 months fixed rate investments. Interest 11.5 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayer), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments. Interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers until April 1986, when CTT becomes payable). 1 yr Mostly 7.5 per cent, min investment £1,000; 2 yrs Mostly 7.9 per cent, min investment £1,000; 5-7 yrs Edinburgh, 8 per cent, min investment £500; 8-10 yrs Thameside, 7 per cent, min investment £500. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, Loans Bureau (01-638 5381 between 10am and 2.30pm) see also Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 7.00 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 to 2 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not redeemable by non-taxpayers.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Int. Reserves 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

The grey area of black economy

TAXATION

The term "black economy" is one of those phrases for which different people have varying definitions. Many might exclude, for example, the occasional sale of paintings in the office or local market which were originally produced for personal pleasure. Others may make a whole variety of hobbies pay in cash, although when the proceeds are donated to charity there is no tax problem.

The law and practice in this area is not always as clear as it might be. It is the taxpayer's duty to report all earnings, and income from whatever source and there is no let-out clause from this duty in tax law. Sometimes practical considerations tend to lessen the impact of this absolute requirement.

The courts and tax practitioners on all sides, spend a great deal of time trying to define income. Regularity is an important factor. This someone who frequently buys old motor cars and refurbishes them lovingly for eventual resale, will undoubtedly be engaged in a trade.

On the other hand, if it is done once it may be a non-taxable capital gain. There could be no gain involved in any case because the cost of the materials used, as well as the original acquisition price of the car, may come close to the sales proceeds.

To deduct (as some people try to do) a cost for one's own labour as a deduction from the sales proceeds is not possible. But costs of premises used, power, and equipment etc. might fall to be deducted as well as any direct expenses of purchase or sale, such as advertising.

Case VI of Schedule D is the head of charge for sweeping up sundry bits of income in the tax net. The general rule is that a single receipt can be caught if it arises out of an enterprise which can be described as "an adventure in the nature of trade".

There is also the implication that income is not taxable, and loss not allowable, where there was no intention to make a profit on the first place. Naturally, where there is a profit the Inland Revenue will usually contend that such an intention existed from the outset.

One must also consider the much disputed line between capital and income. The sale of a painting by the artist would be income. Its acquisition by the purchaser would probably be capital unless it was purchased by a dealer intending to sell it at a profit.

Many people take the view that what the Revenue does not know, it will not grieve over. This is not correct in law and not sensible counsel because the practical implications of very minor disposals of one's hobby efforts rarely give rise to any great tax liability anyway.

From the Revenue's point of view, there is concern that *de minimis* considerations may be abused and it has directed considerable efforts recently to try to draw such income.

For example, many teachers will have found in the past couple of years their examination fees are now paid under deduction of tax. In such areas,



as well as in payments for casual labour, the Revenue is devoting what resources it can.

At the moment the Revenue is feeling, with some justification, that its staff is over-worked and underpaid. It is also looking at proposals to encourage compliance by taxpayers, as recommended by the Keith Committee. These are likely to emerge soon and will undoubtedly make it more expensive, in terms of penalties and interest, for taxpayers to ignore little bits of income on the side.

But all is not gloom. The rules for deductions of expenses from casual earnings taxed under Schedule D are, generally speaking, realistic. And most people find, somewhat to their surprise, that such income, although reportable, is not taxable in practice.

David Tallon

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st October 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,192. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £15,724, an extra £8,532.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st OCT. 1985

	1 YEAR 1 Oct 1984	10 YEARS 1 Oct 1975	15 YEARS 1 Oct 1970
Amount paid in	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G Dividend	2,268	7,300	17,242
M&G Recovery	2,058	8,200	23,813
M&G SECOND	1,960	7,084	15,724
F.T. Industrial Ordinary Index	2,020	5,793	11,430
Building Society Savings Account	1,491	3,832	7,192

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

The Rules of the Plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 0.4% except for International Income Fund which is 1%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

Block capitals please

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ _____ (min £20)

each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ _____ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

AMERICAN & GEN. INTERNATIONAL INCOME
AUSTRALASIAN JAPAN & GEN.
COMPOUND GROWTH MIDLAND
DIVIDEND RECOVERY
INTERNATIONAL GROWTH SECOND
GOLD

SP 484915

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLMENT FORM

TO: _____ BANK DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Your Bank's Sorting Code: _____ Personal Bank Account No. _____ See your cheque book for details

Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, 181 Moorgate Street, Chequers CHQ OLH, Account No. 55713270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), quoting Account No. (LEAVE BLANK) _____ the sum of £ _____ on the _____ day of _____ 19 _____ and continue to pay that amount on the _____ day of each month/quarter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with your from time to time with such payments FROM (SURNAME) AND INITIALS.

ADDRESS: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan. If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in the full name of the child.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £20) and that I can realise my holding on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Registered in England No. 90776. Registered office at 181 Moorgate, London EC6A 3PF. The other is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

M&G

THE M&G GROUP



If you want an investment management service which combines the traditional personal and unbiased service of a leading stockbroker, with the considerable tax and administration efficiency of a unit trust structure, you will be glad to hear that we have just created it.

We call it "The Master Portfolio Service". It combines the skills and experience of Capel-Cure Myers with those of Vanguard Trust Managers. The minimum portfolio is £50,000.

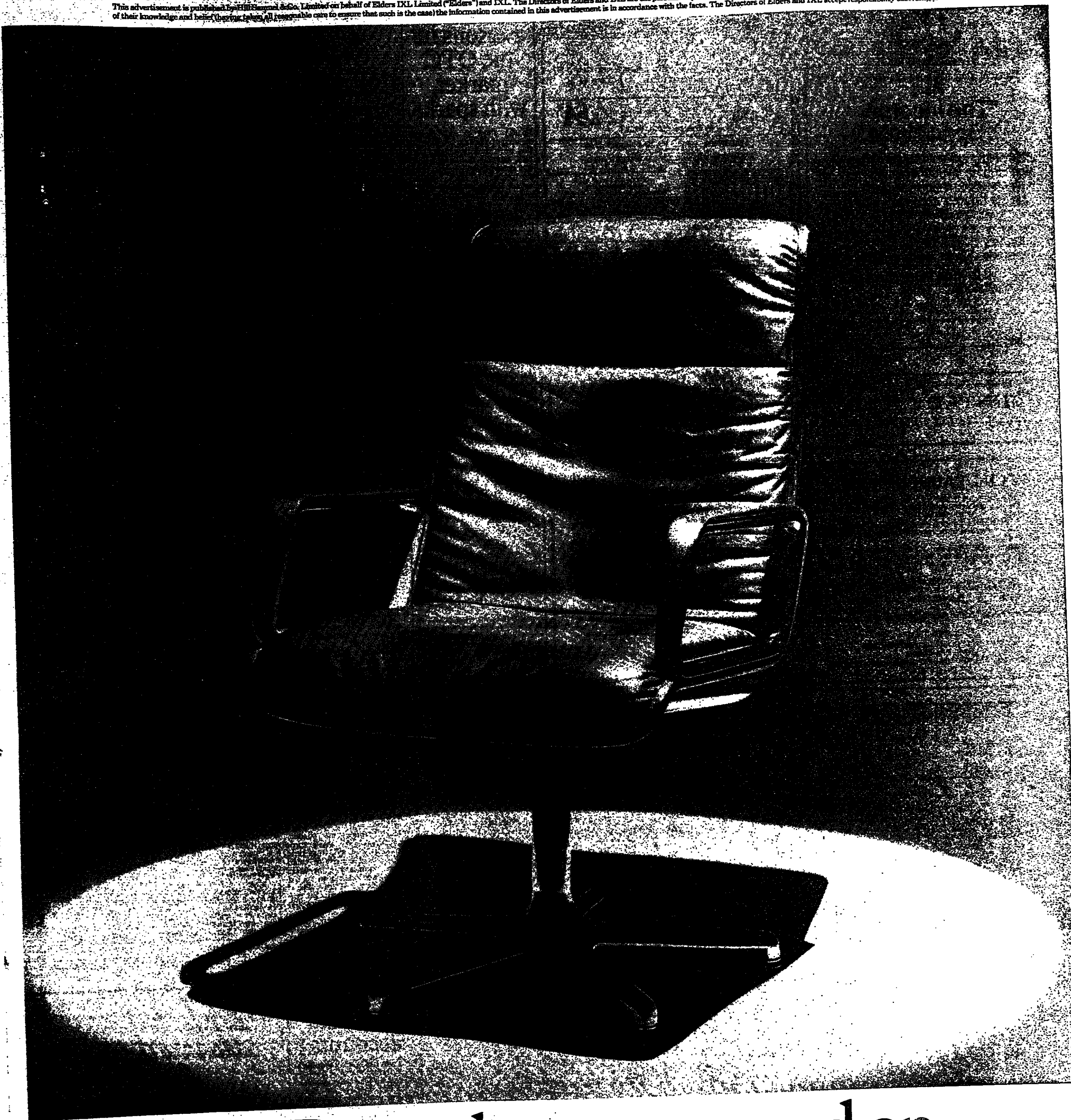
Please telephone or write to David Edsell for full details at

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'Sir Derrick, you passed on 8 questions on your specialist subject'

Sir Derrick Holden-Brown recently had the opportunity to answer questions on Allied-Lyons in his booklet to shareholders. He passed over the following:-

- 1 If Allied-Lyons' yardstick of success is earnings per share why is Allied's 1984/5 figure 20 per cent lower than that of 1978/9 in real terms?
- 2 Your board has reduced Allied-Lyons' UK workforce by 12 per cent over three years and continues to announce further redundancies. Who, therefore, represents a greater threat to the employees' future?
- 3 How can Allied-Lyons be said to be 'a major money earner for Britain' if UK exports account for only 3 per cent of total sales?
- 4 Why have the following major Allied-Lyons products lost market share in the period 1983-1985?
Teachers*, Harveys Bristol Cream, Skol, Double Diamond, Lyons Maid Ice Cream, Tetley/Quick Brew Tea Bags?

- 5 Where is the synergy in a Group whose divisions barely trade with each other?
- 6 If Allied-Lyons wants to stop its declining beer sales why is its advertising spend on lager less than half that of Bass or Watney?*
- 7 With such well known brands as Teachers, Harveys, Lambs and Britvic, why has Allied-Lyons' wines, spirits and soft drinks trading profit been flat in recent years?
- 8 If Allied-Lyons' directors believe their shares will sustain their re-rating, why have they (apart from the exercise of options) in the last year failed to buy a single share and sold nearly 200,000, most of them at less than 176p?

It doesn't take a mastermind to see that the answers to these questions are fundamental to understanding Allied-Lyons' failure to perform.



LOOK AT BOTH SIDES. THEN DECIDE.

Sources: Offer Document, Report & Accounts, and Datastream. *Period 1981-84 being latest information available. **As measured by Media Expenditure Analysis Limited for the year to 30th June, 1985.

12.62% Net

*
Paid Monthly

(*Net of tax at 30%, male aged 65 investing £10,000)
From

"The Income Specialists"

Bentley Haig are specialists in arranging high income investments. To find out how you can maximise your income please return the coupon today or phone 01-629 1310.

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63 Duke Street, London W1M 5DH.

I would like to know more about your income services.

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T17/12

BENTLEY HAIG

& CO LTD

SPECIAL LAUNCH OFFER

All Investment Bond Funds deduct a Capital Gains Tax levy before calculating the value of your investment. After a few years this tax can bite hard into the performance of your Bond.

NEL Britannia has decided to abolish this Capital Gains Tax levy for all their funds in the foreseeable future. No other Company has taken this revolutionary step.

Their new Performance Plus Bond, TO BE LAUNCHED ON 17th FEBRUARY 1986 should give you the double benefit of Unit Trust Performance plus all the extra advantages of traditional bond investments.

Lambert & Mason are offering the following pre-launch additional unit allocations for investments received prior to December 28th:

Investment	Allocation	Allocation
£2,000-£7,000	102%	£15,000+
£8,000-£14,999	104%	106%

For investments received prior to the 14th December 1985, there will be an additional 2.5% allocation.

ACT IMMEDIATELY.

For further information and application contact:

LAMBERT & MASON

21 Leicester Street, MELTON MOWBRAY, Leicestershire, LE13 0PP.
Tel: (0534) 61951

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WITHDRAWALS AT ONLY 6 WEEKS' NOTICE
EARLIER WITHDRAWAL OPTION AVAILABLE

NET RATE COMPOUNDED ANNUAL RATE GROSS EQUIVALENT WITH TAX AT 30%

10.25% = 10.51% = 15.01%
on balances £10,000 to £200,000

10.00% = 10.25% = 14.64%
on balances £500 to £9,999

* INTEREST FORFEITED ON WITHDRAWALS FOR NOTICE PERIOD
* INTEREST PAID HALF YEARLY
* EARLY WITHDRAWAL FACILITY WITH 64 DAYS LOSS OF INTEREST
* INTEREST RATES SUBJECT TO VARIATION * MEMBER OF BSA

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Branches: 200001, 200002, 200003, 200004, 200005, 200006, 200007, 200008, 200009, 200010, 200011, 200012, 200013, 200014, 200015, 200016, 200017, 200018, 200019, 200020, 200021, 200022, 200023, 200024, 200025, 200026, 200027, 200028, 200029, 200030, 200031, 200032, 200033, 200034, 200035, 200036, 200037, 200038, 200039, 200040, 200041, 200042, 200043, 200044, 200045, 200046, 200047, 200048, 200049, 200050, 200051, 200052, 200053, 200054, 200055, 200056, 200057, 200058, 200059, 200060, 200061, 200062, 200063, 200064, 200065, 200066, 200067, 200068, 200069, 200070, 200071, 200072, 200073, 200074, 200075, 200076, 200077, 200078, 200079, 200080, 200081, 200082, 200083, 200084, 200085, 200086, 200087, 200088, 200089, 200090, 200091, 200092, 200093, 200094, 200095, 200096, 200097, 200098, 200099, 200100, 200101, 200102, 200103, 200104, 200105, 200106, 200107, 200108, 200109, 200110, 200111, 200112, 200113, 200114, 200115, 200116, 200117, 200118, 200119, 200120, 200121, 200122, 200123, 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FAMILY MONEY/6

Making the best of the sliding dollar

UNIT TRUSTS/2

The American dollar has continued to slide on the world's foreign exchanges during the past few weeks, ending November at its lowest level for two and a half years. Wall Street has responded by pushing the Dow Jones Industrial Index to a new record.

A falling dollar of course helps American exporters and weakens the arguments of the protectionist lobby in the United States for the imposition of trade barriers.

Clearly, after a rise of some 150 points in the American index since September, it must be questionable whether the latest bull run can be sustained. Several investors appear to be

insurance companies, Legal & General and Sun Alliance have done best, both achieving offer price gains of more than 12.5 per cent during November against the Standard & Poor's rise of just 2.9 per cent in currency-adjusted terms.

The unit holders for whom there has been some particularly good news in the past few weeks are those invested in American technology stocks. After a dramatic slump at the start of the year, the sector has been in decline ever since.

However, some recent optimistic comment on prospects from the US computer giant, Digital Equipment, has sparked a flurry of interest in high technology stocks. Target Technology and G.T. Technology & Growth both scored increases of 9 per cent over the month, but they still show losses over the year.

With the indices for most of the Continental bourses reaching new peaks during November, unit trust managers investing in Europe continued in fine fettle.

Takeover fever kept Britain on the boil

pinning their hopes on a further cut in the American discount rate to keep the market going.

However, Roger Palmer at stockbrokers Greaveson Grant is not so confident. He foresees US interest rates remaining relatively stable for the present with the likelihood that they will rise gradually during 1986.

Even with this scenario, though, he is still optimistic for American equities. "Overall we continue to believe that share prices are heading higher, reflecting the improving economic outlook for 1986, and in particular the extended visibility of the economic cycle and the significantly better corporate profit comparisons next year, helped by the weaker dollar."

Of course, a falling dollar is not good news for British investors. It cuts back on their stock market gains. Several unit trust managers, however, have compensated for the falling currency and made the best of the Wall Street rise. Two

Holborn Europeans, in the Prudential range, led the field with an 11.9 per cent rise over the month. Eagle Star provided the closest competition with an 8.5 per cent increase. Both funds only started life in September this year and are

TOP TEN UNIT TRUSTS

Current value of £100 invested over 11 months to December 1, 1985*

Fund	£
FS Balanced Growth	176.9
Oppenheimer European Grth	165.3
TR Special Opportunities	162.2
Simon & Coates Spec Sits	160.4
Guinness Mahon Recovery	157.3
Murray European	152.5
Prudential UK Growth	151.6
Country Bank Financial	150.6
Baring First Europe	150.6
Holborn UK Growth	150.0

*Offer-to-offer per income invested Source: Financial Savings



benefiting from their small size and the impact of their first well chosen investments.

Takeover fever kept the British market on the boil with the FT Actuaries All-Share Index up a further 4 per cent. The leading British funds, though, comfortably outpaced the market. The enigmatically named Merin Fund, part of the Rowe & Pitman stockbroking stable, was 11.8 per cent higher, while Oppenheimer Special Situations was backing the right stocks with a 10 per cent mark-up.

The best performance of all last month came from a fund in the commodity sector. The Schroder Gold Trust achieved a 15.5 per cent rise.

The bullion market has certainly been hard hit in recent months by the political unrest in South Africa. Many managers have been diversifying away from the trouble to North

American and Australian gold mining alternatives. David Smith at Schroders, though, has apparently stuck to his South African stocks and consequently benefited from the bounce-back in the Johannesburg market lately.

At the wrong end of the table, news of Pan-Electric Industries' collapse on the Singapore stock market was the final straw for the Malaysian and Singapore funds. Both Target's and Henderson's specialist funds in the area tumbled more than 10 per cent over the month and now stand at roughly two-thirds of their value a year ago.

Although both stock markets are reopening after a rescue operation from the local banks, fund managers believe share prices will be sensitive to any other difficulty for some time. They are not yet seen as in the bargain basement.

Mike Hockings

Time share agents who cover the world

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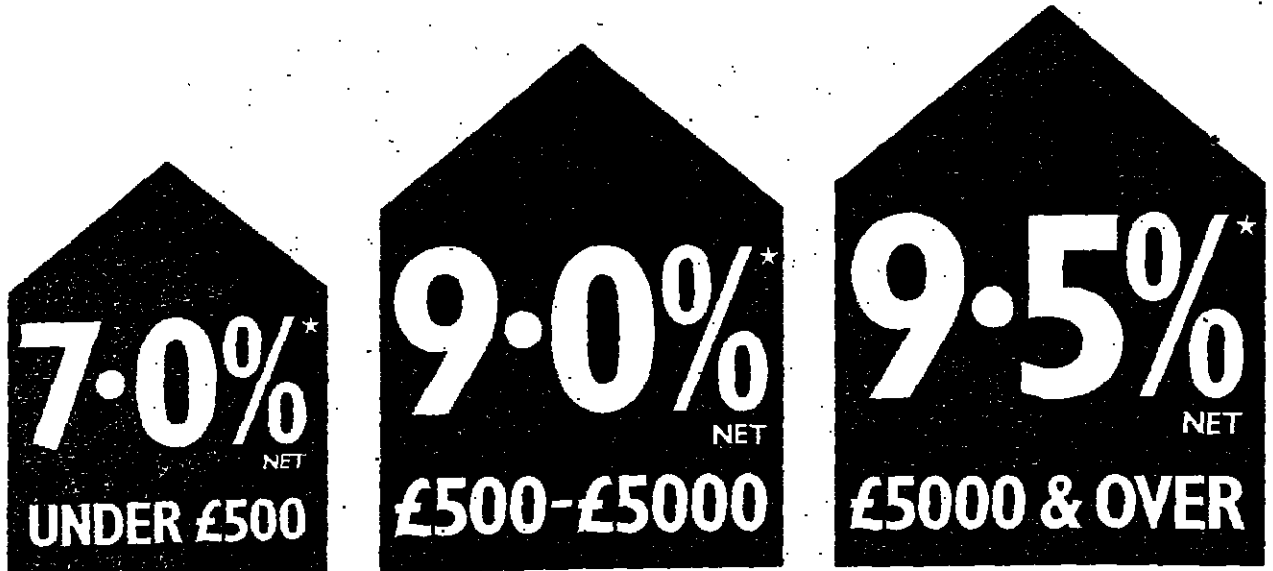
"Considerable public enthusiasm has been generated by this opportunity to acquire pre-owned time share weeks at bargain prices. Existing owners are buying additional weeks for exchange purposes while some previously hesitant purchasers have been attracted by the pricing," said Timeshare Bourse's marketing director, Peter Lewis.

Properties on offer include weeks at such well known time

share developments as El Capistrano village in Nerja, near Malaga, Loch Rannoch in the Scottish Highlands and Court Barton, Devon.

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*All interest rates quoted are correct at the time of going to press but are subject to variation. Gross equivalent rates apply to basic rate tax payers. Interest is credited once a year.

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UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS[illegible]

FOOTBALL: CHARLTON HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE ATHLETIC IN A LESS PROPITIOUS YEAR

From the valley to the mountain peak

By Clive White

It seems Charlton Athletic are never more formidable than when the impossible is requested of them. Like the time in 1954 when, 5-1 down at home to Huddersfield Town in a League match, they recovered with 10 men to win 2-6. Summers scoring five of the goals. Football was never so much fun.

More recently, in March of last year, they wriggled out of the hands of the receiver to escape a winding-up petition within half an hour of the deadline set by the Football League. Now, forced to move home to Selhurst Park in the midst of their most important season in three decades as part of economy measures, we are told they are challenging for promotion to the first division.

Providing Portsmouth, the second division leaders, come away with nothing better than a point at Roker Park today, victory by Charlton over rival promotion candidates, Sheffield United, will put them, a little giddily, on top of the second division for the first time in 16 years.

The prospect of Charlton returning to the first division after an absence of 29 years, a wave of comparative indifference, with gates of less than 3,500, makes their story even more bizarre. But if moving home has dissuaded many supporters from sharing in the new found success - gates are down by about 25 per cent on last season when they finished seventeenth - it has clearly made little difference to the players, partly because for most of them they were not at the Valley long enough to call it home.

Lenny Lawrence, who has just celebrated three years in charge of Charlton, ought to receive some award, if nothing else this season, for his prudent use of the £300,000 granted him by the club's owners for transfer buys. He used it to purchase seven players. A shoe-string was never so long. Most of the buys have first division experience, too, but just the case of Humphrey and Pender, formerly of Wolverhampton Wanderers, not of the happiest kind.

Today they face a Sheffield United side who have more of that knowing look of experience. Thompson, Withe and McNaught to name a few. They are unbeaten in eight League games and have the best away form in the division, as Portsmouth will testify, having lost 3-0 to them at Fratton Park recently. Against that, Charlton can boast their best-ever start in

the division and, importantly, an unchanged side for the fifth consecutive time.

United's run of 21 goals in six games dried up last week at home to Crystal Palace, ironically. Since they share the same grounds, one would think that Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, might impart to Lawrence a little knowledge of how they quelled the storm. But since Palace's ambitions may conflict with Charlton's more directly now, after their own recent fight-up the table, Coppell may think better of it.

If one can envisage changes at the top of the second division there seems little likelihood, on the face of things, of change among the first division's pacemakers. The picture has changed enough in the last fortnight. The one-time runners, leaders, Manchester United, lead by little more than a nose, one that has been put out of joint recently as Liverpool, West Ham and Chelsea have reeled them in rather as a chasing bunch sometimes do to the leaders in cycling.

United are definitely feeling the pace and the home game with Ipswich Town, 21st in the table, does not look the formality it would have done a month ago. United may be forced to give Dempsey, a 21-year-old midfielder player, his first full game if Whiteside does not respond to treatment for a calf injury. At least it makes a change from hamstrings, though I doubt whether Ron Atkinson, the United manager, will appreciate that.

Ipswich will be encouraged by their own recent performance, a win over Sheffield Wednesday and six Milk Cup goals against Swindon Town, and Watford's deserved point at Old Trafford last week. United have now gone seven League and cup games without a win and there is even a sign of apathy among their many faithful thousands.

Liverpool seem the best placed of the leading quartet to profit with a home game against Aston Villa. The Midlanders, however, seem to be better away than at home and they will have Elliott, their new £400,000 signing from Luton Town, at the heart of their defence. Such a price, in Lawrence terms, is equivalent to the strength of nine men. Elliott, who was once a Charlton player, will be without his new central partner, Evans, who has a twisted ankle. Gray will be returning to the Villa side and Merseyside. Last season's heroism in the colours of Everton seem an age ago.



Paul Elliott transplanted to the heart of Villa's defence

Prestige is spur to Juventus

From Gerry Harrison Tokyo

Juventus may not be the most popular club in the world but they have certainly got style. As they head for tomorrow's inter-continental clash with Argentinos Juniors of Buenos Aires they can afford to look straight at a £130,000 payout and say: "We are not here for the money. The prestige is much more important to us. This is the only cup we haven't won."

No European club have won this world club championship since it came to Japan five years ago. Nottingham Forest, Aston Villa, Liverpool (twice) and Hamburg have all finished second, mainly because the South Americans take it more seriously and adapt to difficult conditions more quickly.

Juventus, five points clear at the top of the Italian first division, aim to change that. They will field a full-strength side, defeated only once this season. Only Scirea and Cabrini remain from the 1982 World Cup-winning squad. But with Serena, Laudrup and Platini, the world's most influential players, all in good form, nothing is beyond them.

Argentinos Juniors, the team who discovered Diego Maradona, sold him to Boca Juniors and built an attacking team with the money, have the old hand Olguin at the back and two new internationals, Batista and Borghi. But they could well discover that a hungry fighter is not necessarily the one who needs the money.

Welsh Cup draw

All the remaining league clubs in the Welsh Cup were kept apart when the draw for the fourth round was made yesterday. Cardiff City, Wrexham, Hereford and Newport County all drew home ties against non-league opposition. Swansea must travel away to face either AFC Cardiff or Sully, who replace their third round match today.

DRAW: Cardiff City v Brynmoor or Mold; Wrexham v Brecon or Breidden; Hereford v B&O Straker; Newport County v Llanelli; Sully v Swansea City. All ties to be played on or before January 18.

First division

Bham (20) Watford (13)
Watford were the same 12 who earned a draw at Old Trafford last week. It does not seem a bad time to register their first away win. Birmingham have lost eight of their last nine games. They recall Kennedy and Geddis in an attempt to end a goal famine which has lasted six games. Clarke and Kuhl are dropped.

Coventry (14) v Chelsea (4)
With Kilmene and Pease injured, Coventry field two inexperienced centre backs in McGrath and Rodgers. Pease, the Chelsea captain, returns in place of the injured Roudie. Hazard and Burnard are still unavailable.

Leicester (19) v Man C (18)
Manchester City await a report on Clement's fitness before announcing their side. Johnson stands by. Simpson is recalled in place of Wilson, who was injured in last week's Leicester game. The players are unchanged.

Liverpool (2) v A Villa (16)
Gray returns for Villa and Elliott, their new signing, makes his debut. His centre back partner, Evans, is injured, though, Glover deputises, as does Daley for Birch. Liverpool give late tests to McMahon and Mobley.

Luton (8) v Newcastle (9)
Whitworth, Newcastle's new signing from Hull, makes his debut while King makes his "welcome" debut for Luton, having last played for the club 11 years ago. Foster returns for Luton. Gascoigne cannot play for Newcastle and Anderson is doubtful.

Man U (1) v Ipswich (21)
Dempsey, a 21-year-old midfielder player, is in line for his first full game for the Red Devils as Whiteside, who has a calf injury, Hogg should return. Ipswich expect to be unchanged.

Sheff Wed (5) v Nottm F (10)
Wednesday give late tests to Chamberlain, Shelton and Blair. And Morris has a virus infection. Brian Clough, the Forest manager, concerned about three defeats and a draw in four games, delays selection.

Sheff Utd (12) v P'mouth (1)
Sunderland may be without Gray, who has injured a thigh. For Portsmouth, the club's first manager in six years, during which they have slipped down from the first division. He was promoted after the dismissal of John McGovern in February.

Tottenham (12) v Oxford (17)
Tottenham have three unnamed players, injured by slight injuries, Hoddle and Stevenson are injured earlier in the week. Clive Allen may keep his place. Langan has not recovered from an abdominal strain and, with the exception of Jones, Oxford keep the same team as in midweek.

WBA (22) v Everton (6)
Everton continue with Stevenage centre back and Steve Sharp, just back from Australia. Alton drop Grellish and Whitham. Bradshaw is in plaster and Goodwin takes over in goal. Neilson, signed from Newcastle, makes his debut and Mackenzie returns.

Second division
Charlton (3) v Sheff U (2)
Charlton will be unchanged for the fifth consecutive match. United, unbeaten in their last eight games, are also unchanged.

S'derland (12) v P'mouth (1)
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TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

QPR (11) v West Ham (3)
Forwards for Rangers, Forsdyke recovers from a knee injury just as James goes down with flu. West Ham include Pilo in a squad for the first time since his stomach muscle operation in the summer. McAviney has to sleep off jet lag following his trip home from Australia.

Soton (15) v Arsenal (7)- Williams returns to his former club, a ground where he was sent off 10 days ago. Arsenal make no changes despite the fact that two non-League clubs will go to tonight's third round which will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 2.

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Bognor may have to put up the shutters

By Paul Newman

The FA Cup's reputation for producing results that turn the form book on its head will be tested to the limit in today's second round matches. Rarely at this stage of the competition can the draw have been so harsh on non-League clubs: of the 10 facing League opposition, nine play away from home and six meet teams in the top eight of the third division.

The task facing Bognor Regis Town is typical. The Vauxhall-Oriel League club, conquerors of Enfield in this season's first round, and Swanssea City in last season's, travel to Gillingham, who are third in the third division and have scored 15 goals in their last four matches. The reports I've had from my friends are frightening. Jack Pearce, Bognor's manager, said: "The way Gillingham are scoring goals we will have to board our goal up."

Bognor's chances have not been helped by injuries which will deprive them of three players, Graham Pearson and Poole, but like all the other aspiring giant-killers the Sussex club live in hope that their opponents will show too much complacency.

"They are going to underestimate us whether they like it or not," Pearce says. "Some of their players will be running their legs off, but others will not be able to help standing around waiting for things to happen. But it is inevitable that one non-League side will make an impression in this year's competition."

Upsets are more likely to occur, however, in the ties involving Gola League clubs. AFC Totton, second in the table and in good form, take a fully fit squad to Blackpool, whom they beat in last season's first round. Runcorn have home advantage against Wigton, and could give the third division side problems if they find the goalscorer touch which last week produced 12 goals in two games.

Bath City and Frickley Athletic, away to Wolverhampton and Hartlepool United respectively, can take encouragement from the fact that Gola League clubs have won more Cup games against fourth division opposition than they have lost over the last five seasons.

The pairing of Wycombe Wanderers with Chelmsford City and the post-ponement until Monday of Telford United's tie at Derby County because of a waterlogged pitch ensure that two non-League clubs will go to tonight's third round which will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 2.

Telford's post-ponement gives Stan Storton, their manager, more time to decide how to reshuffle his team after a bizarre injury suffered on Thursday night by Arthur Mann, his most experienced player.

Mann, the former Manchester City, Notts County and Mansfield Town midfielder, had just gone into goal for the last few minutes of a training session when he collided with Kevin Charlton, the regular goalkeeper, who had moved outfield. Mann was found to have two broken ribs and a punctured kidney.

Cork sign Brooking

Trevor Brooking, the 37-year-old former West Ham and England player, has official clearance to play for Cork City against the League of Ireland leaders Galway United tomorrow.

Oxford's choice

Oxford University have named eight old Blues to play against Cambridge University in the university match at Wembley next Wednesday, including Gareth Hargreaves who was in the Cambridge side that won 4-2 last year.

Team: S. Crummett (St Edmund Hall); G. Box (Oriel); I. King (Queens); D. Taylor (Christ Church); B. Brown (Jesus); S. Smith (New College); G. Line (Pembroke); G. Harper (St Edmund Hall); A. Reid (Balliol); S. Edwards (Halls); D. Hutton (Oriel); S. Anson (Exeter); R. Siddons (Pembroke).

Ken Shellito, manager of Cambridge United since March, has resigned. The club announced that Malcolm Webster, their former goalkeeper, who is now in charge of the team, will take over temporarily.

Shellito is the third manager to leave the club in two seasons, during which Cambridge have fallen from the second to near the bottom of the fourth division.

The New York Yacht Club entered one of the two yachts they have in Fremantle. The French syndicate who are challenging for the Cup through the Société des Régates Rochelaises, have entered their recently launched yacht "French Kiss", while the Bond syndicate confirmed that both their yachts would be sailing in the event.

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Karachi riots cannot stop series going way of West Indies

Karachi (Reuters) - West Indies won the one-day series against Pakistan 3-2 yesterday when they achieved an eight-wicket victory in the fifth and final game which was disrupted by crowd trouble. The touring team restricted Pakistan to 127 for seven in 38 overs and reached 128 for two with 23 balls to spare.

The Pakistan innings was reduced by two overs from the scheduled 40 after hundreds of fans poured out the playing area when the home side had reached 87 for four. Police cleared them away but other spectators, pelleted by police with tear gas, remained on the field and the teams took an early lunch.

Play was halted again during the West Indies innings when the crowd, by now watched by police surveillance planes, again became restless. A chair leg was thrown onto the field and hit Wasim Akram, the Pakistan medium pace bowler, in the back. He was unturt.

Pakistan, who lost to last by Richards, never recovered from a 71-run fifth-wicket partnership between Mohsin Khan and Javed Miandad their innings. The victory in the first of two one-day matches, again became a rout. Richards, Gray, Holding and Walsh, Marshall, who captured

two wickets for 25, was man of the match. West Indies had no trouble reaching their target and Richards was loudly applauded by the home crowd when he scored the winning run.

PAKISTAN
Mohsin Khan c Richardson b Marshall 54
Shoaib Khan b Gray 19
Rameez Raja c Duhan b Marshall 19
Salim Malik run out 0
Imran Khan run out 0
Javed Miandad b Holding 54
Abbas Chaudhry not out 8
Wasim Akram b Holding 4
Zakir Khan not out 4
Extras (b 4, w 4, nb 1) 10
Total (7 wickets, 38 overs) 127

WEST INDIES
D L Hayes c Mohsin Khan b Wasim Akram 39
R B Richardson b Wasim Akram 29
A G Barnes not out 13
I A Richards not out 16
Extras (b 1, w 5, nb 3) 9
Total (2 wickets, 31 overs) 128

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BOWLING: Marshall 8-1-22-4, Gray 8-4-14-1, Walsh 8-2-20-2, Holding 8-2-19-3, Richards 2-0-0-0.

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Churches to urge tough sanctions on S Africa

From Jan Raath, Harare

A World Council of Churches emergency meeting ended here yesterday with a declaration that is expected to arouse heated controversy and add considerable momentum to the international campaign against South Africa.

The "Harare Declaration" adopted at the end of the conference calls on WCC members to press for "immediate and comprehensive" sanctions against South Africa and to support the guerrilla movements fighting the government. It also calls for the prevention of South Africa and the "immediate" implementation of United Nations resolutions for the independence of Namibia. The document welcomes the recent unification of black trade unions and establishes June 16, the date of the Soweto riots, as a "world day of prayer to end unjust rule in South Africa".

Conference officials pointed out that while the WCC itself had made similar declarations, the Harare meeting was significant in obtaining the earnest commitment of individual churches for concerted action.

Delegates are hoping their message will filter down to congregations all over the world.

After the ratification of the declaration Dr Emilio Castro, the Uruguayan Methodist who is the general secretary for the conference, stressed that the declaration was an appeal for a non-violent resolution to South Africa's ills.

The conference appears to

have resolved the dispute between the radical section within the WCC and some of the churches in western nations, which previously advocated selective, rather than comprehensive, sanctions.

Dr Castro said there had been "general agreement" on the issue, and noted that the Most Reverend Edward Scott, the Anglican Primate of Canada who on Thursday argued for partial sanctions, yesterday had assisted with the drafting of the declaration and favoured comprehensive measures.

The position of the Most Reverend John Habgood, the Anglican Archbishop of York, was not clear. He left on Thursday night for Britain after stating earlier in the day at the meeting that the British Council of Churches advocated specially targeted measures and was opposed to a total boycott.

Dr Castro said delegates from the Western nations had been "obliged to think again" by listening to the South African delegates who said, "do not worry about us, we will survive".

Dr Castro said the meeting had "dramatised" the South African situation for churches abroad, and delegates spoke of "feeling the passion" of events in South Africa.

The meeting also provided for significant contacts between the guerrilla movements - the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress, which were observers, and the delegates from South African churches and nine students from universities in the Cape.



Omar Muhammad Ali Rezaq, the surviving hijacker in hospital in Valletta yesterday.

Malta hijacker changes identity

From Austin Sammut Valletta

The surviving hijacker of the Egyptian jet two weeks ago, who is being held in Malta, has changed his identity. He had previously been thought to be a Tunisian, named Omar Farouk. He has now told police interrogators that he is Omar Muhammad Ali Rezaq, a Palestinian born in Lebanon in 1963. He says he has no passport.

Mr Paul Missud, Malta's Director of Information, told reporters this yesterday and said Rezaq had told police there were two other hijackers, one an

Egyptian called "Salim." He did not know the other's name.

He had told police that Salim, who was shot dead by an Egyptian security guard, was the leader. The three had met at Athens airport just before boarding the flight.

Mr Missud said Rezaq was interrogated by Maltese police on December 3, in his hospital room. His condition was improving but "he is saying very little". Mr Missud said he had bullet wounds.

He would appear in court as soon as he was fit enough. The Maltese Government would not extradite him. "Two murders have been committed on Maltese

territory: not to mention attempted murders," Mr Missud said.

If the police definitely ascertained that he was involved they had no option under Maltese law but to prosecute him before Malta's courts. "No political or diplomatic considerations can stop this".

The Maltese authorities are still holding two bodies, presumably those of hijackers. By elimination, the two appear on the plane's passenger list as S. Chakore and S. Bou, holding Moroccan passports. This tends to corroborate Rezaq's claims, although, there are still many unanswered questions.

Ownership change likely at Telegraph

Continued from page 1

Lord Hartwell, who commands the respect and affection of other Fleet Street proprietors, has had his back to the wall, where the strain has told.

His two sons Adrian and Nicholas Barry, have not seen eye-to-eye with their father at recent board meetings. The two "outside" non-executive directors appointed to The Telegraph as part of the £110 million financing package arranged in June, Lord Rawlinson and Mr David Montagu, have been deeply critical of the company's management and performance, which have failed to live up to the profit forecasts.

The Telegraph has already changed its auditors, Coopers & Lybrand replacing Saffery Champness. As well as a new finance director, The Telegraph will have a new managing director to succeed Mr Harbottle Stephen, CBE, aged 69, who has wanted to retire for some time.

The Telegraph's fall into losses - the much delayed half-year figures - should appear early next week - has put a serious strain on its loan and leasing agreements with its bankers.

The Telegraph, whose newspapers have large followings and traditionally have been first on world-beat newspaper tycoons' buying lists, is now under such enormous pressure for four basic reasons.

First, it has consistently set the price and advertising rates of the Daily Telegraph at levels more calculated to make life difficult for others than to maximize The Telegraph's earnings and thus build up its internal resources.

Second, the Barry family, save on very rare occasions, has consistently set its face against all but minimal change.

Third, having decided to embark on an ambitious programme of new investment in printing plants and modern printing methods, it has found it neither the financial resources nor the management capability to sustain and control that programme.

Fourth, strong competition in Fleet Street has brought loss of circulation and downward pressure on advertising revenues.

Letter from Tokyo Sealing the deal in harmony

After more than a year in Japan I can now sign my name without embarrassment.

It's not that foreign names are somehow unacceptable, quaint and unpronounceable, though they are, it's just that on many everyday documents in Japan the area given for signature is a small circle of about one centimetre in diameter. Try squeezing a full signature, or even initials, into that space and you will appreciate the feeling of clumsiness that that imparts to the already oversized *gaijin* (foreigner).

I can now stride into the bank with confidence because I have a *hanko*. This is a small cylindrical personal seal usually made of ivory with which documents and letters are endorsed.

The *hanko* may be very simple and cheap or decorated with silver and carved ivory at exorbitant cost. They come in two ranks of importance: one for official documents which must be registered with the local government and the less important type for use at the bank. For some reason marriages are registered with the latter type. The first record of a *hanko* in Japan was in 57AD apparently in a communication from China.

The cypher itself usually consists of one *kanji*, Chinese character, representing the person's name. Foreign names can be written in phonetic Japanese called *kana*.

My name happens to include the sound *wa*, a word at the very centre of Japanese life and culture, which means harmony, eminently acceptable for my *hanko*. The initial reaction of most foreigners is that the use of a *hanko* is so insecure. Anyone might pick it up, that is any Japanese might pick up another Japanese's *hanko*, and use it to withdraw his life savings. Foreigners, of course, are a highly visible exception to every rule, and few would risk pretending to be a Suzuki or a Matsumoto even for hundreds of millions of yen.

But *hanko*, being registered with the places where one usually does his business,

become closely registered with the fact.

Suggest to a Japanese that the *hanko* system is insecure because rogues might be apt to purloin them and the reaction is almost invariably blank amazement, as though such a thing were unthinkable. Of course there are rogues about willing to take advantage: only last month 500 million yen was taken from a series of banks through misuse of a *hanko*. But it speaks volumes for the degree of trust among Japanese that the system is relatively rarely abused.

So far my *hanko* has proved most useful in banking and other money transactions where cash and the consequent receipts are concerned, cash being the only acceptable form of payment for most transactions in Japan.

When we arrived we had regular visits from our bank. A man would cycle to the house frequently to make sure we were getting all the help we wanted. When the bank was tardy about informing us of the arrival of some money from London the apology came in the form of a package of household necessities: some salad bowls, cooking oil, tissues and towels.

Our friendly banker was also, of course, getting the measure of his new clients, noting, perhaps, that the family does not throw money around on trivia such as cars, the family transport being four bicycles.

On reflection the bank was probably merely trying to show me, politely, what has since become obvious: cheque books are virtually useless in Japan. Only a few foreign-related firms will accept cheques and then not with any great clarity because of the high service charge payable for cashing them.

David Watts

Astles waits in Kampala

Continued from page 1

became a notorious killer squad. He renounced his British citizenship and became a Ugandan during one of Amin's particularly virulent bouts of Anglophobia. It was at that time that Mr Astles alienated himself from the British community in Kampala by organizing a ceremony in which white men carried Amin on a chair on their shoulders and prostrated themselves at his feet in obeisance.

Fellow prisoners, also now released, say that he was a figure of some influence in Luzira during a six-year captivity in which he was the only long-term white inmate.

Mr Astles was twice put on trial during his detention. In 1981 he was acquitted of a charge of the murder of a British individual. In 1983 charges of robbery were dropped the day before the judge was due to give his verdict.

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Margaret will attend a performance of Haydn's "Creation".

Solution of Puzzle No 16,998

1. OBVIOUSLY
2. STATE
3. NOTARIES
4. U N I T
5. C I T I Z E N S
6. C L A U D I U S
7. R O W E R
8. B R O A D
9. T R E E
10. S E R V
11. S O V E R E I G N
12. B E L O W
13. T I T L E
14. V I S I B L E
15. C E R T I F I C A T E
16. I N T A N G I B L E
17. C H I N A
18. L O A D
19. O F F I C E
20. S A R A G E
21. M I N E S W E E P E R

Solution of Puzzle No 16,913

1. C H A T T E R
2. B O O K
3. P E N
4. P A P E R
5. I N K
6. P E N
7. P A P E R
8. P E N
9. P A P E R
10. P E N
11. P A P E R
12. P E N
13. P A P E R
14. P E N
15. P A P E R
16. P E N
17. P A P E R
18. P E N
19. P A P E R
20. P E N
21. P A P E R
22. P E N
23. P A P E R
24. P E N
25. P A P E R
26. P E N
27. P A P E R
28. P E N
29. P A P E R
30. P E N

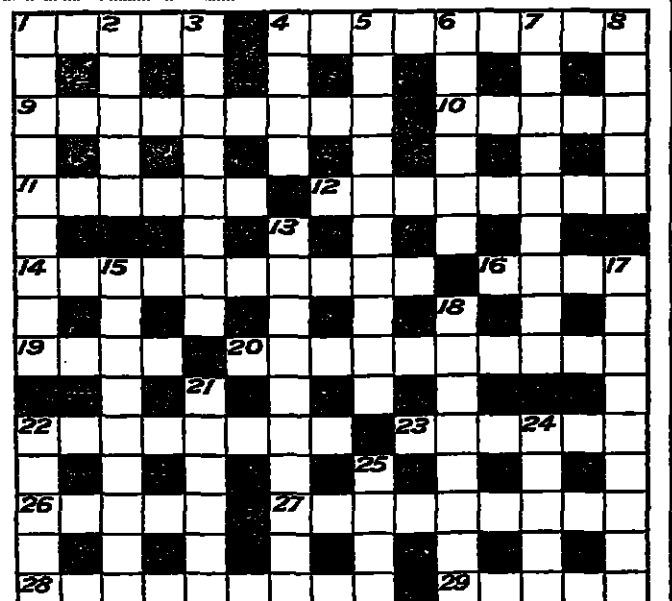
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,914

A prize of The Times Atlas of World History will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coleridge Street, London WC9 9JF. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr J. W. A. Chorley, Highclere, Church Lane, Farndon, Chester; Miss Bridget Keay, 11 Oaklands Grove, London, W12; Mr G. Barnett, 17 Dulton Road, London, SE9.

Name: _____

Address: _____



ACROSS

- Unexpected difficulty this, with two X's causing absurd situation (9).
- Sort of lobster that saw the end of Robespierre (9).
- Robin, the Bow Street runner (9).
- Two notes returned to Lucy Locket for insurance (5).
- Jack about to return with a list of corrections (6).
- Like numbers of clues for "prelate" (8).
- Native throws one soldier back into the river in Pakistan (10).
- A little elephant in one's stocking (4).
- The Dong's leading feature (4).
- What's on foot? Paranormal perception - standard procedure, note (10).
- I heard about the age of musical drama (8).
- Having no principles, gives morning test (6).
- News agency has nothing on the post (5).
- Arm with material that's

DOWN

- Thought proof of existence lay in this philosophy (9).
- This rose in an Elizabethan house (5).
- What one comes into, it appears, in her time of life (8).
- Dangerous driver booked and pulled in, we hear (4).
- Additional art work for such a non-resident student (10).
- In my circumstances unemployment pay is up in the air (6).
- Flow to break a settlement in Latinised form (9).
- Cape's robots overcome a student of the country (5).
- Luther as a professional writer when confronted by the devil (10).
- Said very quietly to remedy for indigestion (9).
- Once a mercenary sort of writer perhaps (9).
- Unlabeled vicar in Disraeli's legend (8).
- Unveiled the work of Richard Strauss (5).
- "As false as dice" - (Hamlet)

Blake Gallery, George Lane, Crewekerne, Mon to Sat 10 to 4, closed Sun (ends Dec 24).

Harveys History of Wine Collection. City Museum and Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5.

Music

Handel's *Messiah* by the Tiptree Choral Society, St Luke's Church, Tiptree, Essex, 6.30.

Concert by the Bexhill Festival Choir, St Peter's Church, Old Town, Bexhill, 7.30.

Christmas Concert by the Linsdale Singers, St George's Church, Taddington, 7.30.

Handel's *Messiah*, by the East Riding County Choir and Sinfonia, Beverley, 7.30.

Concert by the Chiltern Choir and the Chiltern Chamber Orchestra, St Mary's Church, Rickmansworth, 8.30.

Haydn's *Creation* by the Ilkley Choral Society, King's Hall, Ilkley, 7.30.

Concert by Kenneth Sillicott (violin) and Anthony Goldstone (piano), Talbot Heath School, Redburn Road, Bourne, 8.30.

Handel's *Messiah* by the Romsey Choral Society, Romsey Abbey, 7.30.

Concert by His Majesty's Sagbuts and Cornets with Richard (bass) and Alastair Ross (organ), Great Hall, Exeter University, 7.30.

Concert by the Freegard Singers, St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne, Kent, 8.30.

Tomorrow

Royal engagements

The Queen attends "a Royal Celebration of Youth" presented by Yorkshire Television at the Conference Centre, Harrogate, in aid of the National Council of YMCAs to mark International Youth Year, 7.30.

Music

Concert by members of the Bournemouth Sinfonietta and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, St Peter's Church, Bourne, 8.30.

Concert by the Beechfield Youth Orchestra, Christ Church, Thorne Road, Doncaster, 8.15.

Bach's Christmas Oration by the Aldridge Chamber Choir and the Britten-Pears Orchestra, Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldridge, 8.30.

General

Gainsborough Model Railway Society Open Day, Clubrooms, Florence Terrace, off Trinity Street, Gainsborough, Lincs, 1.30 to 6.30.

Bookfair, Britannia Hotel, Portland Street, Manchester, 1 to 5.

Antique fair, Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester, 10.30 to 5.

The pound

Bank of England, 10.30 to 11.30

In the garden

Soil temperatures are falling rapidly now so the sooner any planting of trees, shrubs, roses or fruit bushes is done the better.

It is a new school of thought which holds that if young trees are allowed to be rocked about by high winds they will be encouraged to make strong anchoring roots more quickly than if they are firmly sited. This would seem highly improbable. What is certain is that if trees, shrubs or roses are allowed to rock about a depression will form at ground level around the stem. If this fills with water which freezes, the tree may be badly damaged or killed.

Another new school says it is not necessary to treat tree wounds after pruning. My instinct is still rather to be safe than sorry and cheaply to treat such surfaces with a compound such as Seal and Heal, which contains a fungicide.

Grass has now stopped growing. Moss, however, will keep on growing, even in the low winter light conditions. So if moss is present, destroy it now with one of the proprietary moss killers.

It is wise now to take the mower in for servicing. If it is an electric machine try to find a service agent who can not only sharpen the blades but check that the machine is electrically safe.

When Christmas in mind it might be a good idea to give an RCB (residual current contact breaker) to anyone who uses an electric mower, trimmer, drill or saw outdoors. Or indeed any electrical appliance like an iron, hair dryer, or Christmas tree lights.

Euro forum

The Secretariat General of the Council of Europe is planning a forum in November 1986, bringing together local and regional politicians, members of parliament, and representatives of non-governmental organizations in its member countries and would like to hear from interest groups whose campaigns have had a significant influence on public policy, administrative process or legislation and also from any whose actions have come under the spotlight of the media.

Information from the Public Relations Service, DPT, Council of Europe, BP 431 Rue F-67008 Strasbourg.

Seasonal mail

Next Tuesday is the latest recommended posting date for Christmas parcels and packets by airmail to most of Europe, and airmail Christmas cards, printed papers, letters and postcards should be posted by December 12.

Anniversaries

TODAY
British: Gian Lorenzo Bernini, sculptor, Naples, 1667; Stuart Davis, abstract painter, Philadelphia, 1894; Cicero, executed, Caicta, Italy, 43BC; Sir Peter Lely, portrait painter, London, 1680; Melindert Hobbema, landscape painter, Amsterdam, 1709; William Bligh, captain of HMS Bounty, London, 1817; John Flaxman, sculptor, London, 1836; Edward Irving, leader of the Catholic Apostolic Church, Glasgow, 1834; Ferdinand Vierendeel de Lesseps, diplomat and promoter of the Suez Canal, La Cernaie, France, 1894; Kirsten Flagstad, soprano, Oslo, 1962; Thornton Wilder, novelist, New Haven, Connecticut, 1975.

Roads

London and South-East: A316: Chiswick Lane closed between Datchet and Uxbridge. A166: diversion signed, expect serious delays. A166: diversion signed, expect serious delays. A166: diversion signed, expect serious delays.

Wales: A470: Temporary lights at Ewloe roundabout between Datchet and Uxbridge. A470: diversion signed, expect serious delays. A470: diversion signed, expect serious delays.

Midlands: M1: Contrail between junction 22 and 23, M25: Contrail between junctions 22 and 23, M25: Contrail between junctions 22 and 23.

North: M6: Work on M6 between junctions 22 and 23, M6: Contrail between junctions 22 and 23, M6: Contrail between junctions 22 and 23.

South: M4: Work on M4 between junctions 22 and 23, M4: Contrail between junctions 22 and 23, M4: Contrail between junctions 22 and 23.

Scotland: North Street, Glasgow closed at Clydehead, Glasgow, 10.30 to 11.30. North Street, Glasgow closed at Clydehead, Glasgow, 10.30 to 11.30.

SEAS: Passages S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind SW strong or gale, decreasing light. See very rough becoming light. English Channel (E): Wind SW strong or gale, decreasing light. See very rough becoming light.

Channel, Irish Sea: Wind mainly SW, decreasing light. See moderate becoming smooth. Irish Sea: Wind mainly SW, decreasing light. See moderate becoming smooth.

Information supplied by AA

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 24).

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+6	+1	-2	+1	-1	-1	-1
2	+4	+2	-2	+2	-1	-1	-1
3	+6	+1	-3	+3	-1	-1	-1
4	+4	+1	-2	+1	-1	-1	-1
5	+7	+2	-2	+5	+1	-1	-1
6	+8	+2	-2	+2	+1	-1	-1
7	+7	+1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
8	+8	+1	-2	+5	-1	-1	-1
9	+8	+2	-1	+5	-1	-1	-1
10	+7	+1	-1	+3	-1	-1	-1
11	+2	+3	-2	+1	-2	-1	-1
12	+2	+1	-1	+3	-2	-1	-1
13	+2	+2	-2	+2	-1	-1	-1
14	+6	+2	-2	+5	-1	-1	-1
15	+3	+1	-1	+1	-1	-1	-1
16	+2	+3	-2	+2	-2	-1	-1
17	+3	+1	-2	+4	-2	-1	-1
18	+4	+1	-2	+3	-2	-1	-1
19	+3	+1	-1	+4	-2	-1	-1
20	+4	+1	-2	+3	-2	-1	-1
21	+4	+1	-3	+2	+2	-1	-1
22	+2	+2	-3	+5	-1	-1	-1
23	+2	+1	-1	+3	+2	-1	-1
24	+3	+2	-3	+3	-1	-1	-1
25	+2	+2	-3	+5	-1	-1	-1
26	+5	+1	-3	+5	-2	-1	-1
27	+2	+1	-4	+3	+3	-1	-1
28	+5	+1	-3	+2	-1	-1	-1
29	+2	+1	-2	+2	-3	-1	-1
30	+5	+1	-2	+3	-2	-1	-1
31	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	-1	-1
32	+1	+1	-2	+3	-2	-1	-1
33	+2	+3	-2	+3	-1	-1	-1
34	+3	+2	-2	+2	-1	-1	-1
35	+2	+1	-1	+2	+1	-1	-1
36	+4	+3	-1	+4	-2	-1	-1

Weather

A complex area of low pressure will cross the country into North Sea, leaving a showery, westerly airstream over S.

London, SE, E England, East Angles: Rain, clearing, mainly dry, with strong W. wind to strong, locally gale, max temp 9-10C (48-50F).

Central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S. Wales: Bright and showery, with W. wind to strong, locally gale, max temp 10-12C (50-54F).

N. Wales, central E England: Mainly dry, with W. wind to strong, max temp 8-10C (46-50F).